

## France offers Israel \$500m loan guarantees

PARIS (R) — France confirmed on Wednesday that it had offered state guarantees worth \$500 million to Israel for housing projects for immigrants. A foreign ministry spokesman told reporters the guarantees would enable French construction firms to build 10,000 homes around Beersheba, the main population center in the Negev area of southern Israel. First news of the offer came on Tuesday from visiting Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy, who told Israeli journalists that French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas had made it. The French spokesman said the guarantees would not be used for work in Israeli-occupied Arab territory. The proposal is the biggest Paris has extended to Israel, surpassing by \$100 million standing guarantees offered by the United States for the same purpose. Relations between France and Israel have been strained over France's efforts to resume ties between the European Community (EC) and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

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## Superpower summit set for June 25-27

MOSCOW (AP) — The summit meeting between Presidents Mikhail S. Gorbachev and George Bush will be held June 25-27, an independent news agency reported Wednesday. The Russian Information Agency, quoting unidentified sources it described as close to the Soviet foreign ministry, reported the dates of the long-delayed summit. The news agency reported that the dates coincided with terms reached at talks between U.S. Secretary of State James A. Baker and Soviet Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh. The Moscow summit originally was scheduled for February but was delayed because of the Gulf war.

# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جريدة الأردن تنشر يومية سياسية تصدر باللغتين العربية والإنجليزية

## King congratulates Swedish monarch

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday sent a cable to King Carl Gustaf of Sweden to congratulate him in his name and on behalf of the Jordanian government and people on Sweden's national day. King Hussein expressed his wishes that Jordanian-Swedish relations be enhanced for the best interest of the two peoples and wished King Gustaf good health and happiness and the Swedish people further progress and prosperity.

## PLO, Saudi Arabia make 1st contact

TUNIS (R) — Saudi Arabia and the Palestine Liberation Organisation on Wednesday had their first official political contact since the end of the Gulf war, the PLO newagency WAFA announced. WAFA said Farouk Kaddoura, the PLO diplomatic head, sent a message to Saudi Arabia's Foreign Minister, Prince Saud Al Faisal, on "the situation in the Arab World and the efforts being deployed to settle Middle East problems." The message was handed to the Saudi Arabian ambassador in Tunis, Ibrahim Assaad Ibrahim.

## Iraq reports 64 cholera cases no deaths

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq said on Wednesday that 64 cholera cases had been reported in various provinces, but that none of the people affected had died. A health ministry spokesman, quoted by the Iraqi News Agency INA, said Baghdad province had the highest figure with 16 cases. The northern mainly Kurdish province of Duhok came next with 12 cases. "There were no fatalities among those affected and who are now in good health," the spokesman said.

## Israelis arrest Gulf peace team

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Israeli authorities arrested 23 members of an international peace group which set out to march from Jerusalem through the occupied West Bank to Amman. Members of the Gulf Peace Team said on Wednesday they were arrested late on Tuesday in the Ramallah area of the occupied West Bank for refusing a police order to leave the area. Kathy Kelly, a coordinator for the group, said authorities detained the 23 for more than four hours and then took them back to Jerusalem. A military spokesman said the marchers had entered a closed military zone and were taken to a police station in Ramallah.

## PLO official in Egypt

CAIRO (R) — PLO executive committee member Mahmoud Abbas arrived in Cairo on Wednesday for talks with Egyptian officials on the Middle East peace process. "The visit is part of the PLO's policy of coordinating and consulting with concerned Arab parties on the peace process," a statement by the PLO information office in Cairo said. Abbas, better known as Abu Mazen, has visited Cairo twice since April, apparently to try to mend fences between Egypt and the Palestine Liberation Organisation. Abu Mazen's trip coincided with a surprise visit to Cairo by Syrian President Hafez Al Assad.

## Spain lifts food sanction on Iraq

MADRID, Spain (AP) — Spain has lifted its embargo on food and medicine exports to Iraq, an industry ministry spokesman said Tuesday. Spain's official gazette published a May 31 order lifting the ban on food and medicine exports from a general trade embargo dating to shortly after Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait. The spokeswoman, Angeles Bosch, said she latest order would take effect Wednesday. It brought Spain into line with its 11 European Community partners, who jointly approved the action at a Brussels meeting on May 7.

## 3 killed, 9 injured Wednesday; Arab League condemns; Security Council 'may meet'

## Israeli warplanes bomb South Lebanon for 3rd day

SIDON, Lebanon (Agencies) — Israeli warplanes blasted Palestinian and Lebanese guerrilla bases in South Lebanon for a third straight day Wednesday, barely 12 hours after mounting their biggest attack in Lebanon in nine years.

Police said three fighters were killed and nine wounded in the latest raid that targeted Palestinian and leftist militia bases in hills overlooking the eastern flank of the port city of Sidon.

That raised the overall toll of the raids to 22 killed and 82 wounded in 48 hours. Police said the air strikes were evidently aimed at destroying the bulk of the Palestinians' armour around Sidon, provincial capital of South Lebanon.

At least three major ammunition dumps and two depots of military vehicles were demolished in the raids, said a police spokesman.

The spokesman said Israeli-backed militiamen of the South Lebanon Army (SLA), and Palestinian guerrillas fought a one-hour artillery duel in the area after the air raid, but no casualties were reported.

The SLA and Palestinians were seen massing armour on their opposite front lines in the bluffs between Sidon and the SLA-held Christian town of Jezzine.

A police spokesman said four Israeli jets fired six rockets on a base of Ahmad Jibril's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command in hills above Sidon's eastern flank at 12:30 a.m. (2130 GMT Tuesday).

Two other rockets blasted a base of the Syrian Social Nationalist Party, a leftist Lebanese faction that advocates the merger of Lebanon, Syria,

to discuss the latest Israeli air attacks on South Lebanon.

"I think the Security Council will meet but that will depend on the consultations being done by the president of the Security Council," Perez de Cuellar told a news conference in Abuja, Nigeria's future capital.

"I hope the situation will calm down and that there will be no new attacks on Lebanon," Perez,

attending a summit of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), said.

In Beirut, Lebanon's pro-Iranian Hezbollah group marked Tuesday's second anniversary of the death of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini with vows to attack Israel and the United States.

Abbas Musawi, Hezbollah's general secretary, told thousands of fundamentalists at the Iranian embassy in Beirut that Muslims should mark the occasion by moving against Washington — "the great Satan."

"To face American and Israeli mobilisation, we are required to mass all our capabilities and efforts," Musawi said to chants of "death to Israel, death to America," from followers of Iran's late revolutionary leader.

"What I am telling you Muslims is that no matter how much America behaves arrogantly and Israel act tyrannically, they will be broken when confronted by the determination of believers," the clergyman said.

"God willing, the next few days will prove us right."

The independent Beirut newspaper *Al Nahar* said on Tuesday that Syria and the PLO had reached an agreement in principle on the status of Palestinian fighters in Lebanon and Middle East peace negotiations.

## Syria, Egypt agree on urgent need for peace talks

CAIRO (Agencies) — Syrian and Egyptian leaders, meeting unexpectedly in Cairo on Wednesday, agreed that there was an urgent need to hold a Middle East peace conference.

"There is total agreement between Egypt and Syria to start the peace process as soon as possible," Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa said after three hours of talks between Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and his Egyptian counterpart, Hosni Mubarak.

Diplomatic said Assad's previously unannounced visit to Cairo signalled possible flexibility on the part of Damascus over U.S. efforts to convene the first talks between Israel and its Arab neighbours as a group.

They said Egypt and Syria

sought a joint stand to counter any Israeli attempt to throw the blame onto the Arabs if U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's peace initiative collapsed.

"It's long been my belief — and Egypt's — that when push comes to shove, Syria will not want to be left out or blamed should the peace process fail," said one Cairo-based diplomat.

The first public sign that Syria is willing to enter the peace talks came from a spokesman for Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama, who visited Cairo last week.

The spokesman, briefing reporters, said Mubarak had told Nakayama that in contacts between the two countries, Syria had shown some flexibility on the peace process.

"There are still certain difficulties which will be discussed further ... We believe the available time is short and we have to start the peace process according to U.N. resolutions and principles," he said.

Moussa said there were still hurdles to the peace process.

"Arab diplomats have said it is too early for Iran to be involved militarily in such arrangements, which in any case have yet to materialise. But they said Tehran might play an expanded political role in Gulf security."

Velayati said earlier this year that his country sought a "six plus one" security arrangement involving the GCC states and Iran, but little has been heard of the proposal since.

The Iranian official also said the Gulf war showed the council was "useless" in keeping peace in the Gulf area, adding, "the main reason for the failure was the absence of Iran."

The kingdom had ruptured relations in early 1988 following years of strained ties because of Tehran's attempt to export its Islamic revolution to neighbouring states.

Iran is seeking to be involved in any future security arrangements for the Gulf, but its oil-rich Arab neighbours have so far shied

away from giving it an open role in regional security.

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## Oil fires affect climate — Abanda

By Jamal Halaby  
The Associated Press

Dr. Ali Abanda

AMMAN — Smoke and soot from more than 500 oil wells burning in Kuwait are affecting sunlight and the local climate in Jordan, the country's meteorology chief said Wednesday.

The official, Ali Abanda, also said that temperatures have dropped recently to the lowest average in 68 years.

Jordan's climate is usually stable and dry with high temperatures much of the year.

Precipitation is modest with rain falling during a three-month winter season, but this year there was rain in May. On Monday, June 3, there was drizzle and cold winds.

An estimated 516 oil wells were set ablaze during the Gulf war. They are burning out of control and scientists have predicted that it will take up to two years to put out all the fires.

"The recent rainfall in Jordan tended to be slightly more acidic than normal," he noted.

Temperatures were lower in March, April and May compared to the same months in previous years.

"Temperatures never dropped down as much since 1923," Abanda said.

For example, he said, the average temperatures recorded during the last week of May in Amman were 18 degrees Celsius during daytime and seven Celsius at night.

Average temperatures during the last week of May in other years registered an average high of 27 Celsius and a low of 21, Abanda said.

He said the average high in the last week of May 1923 was 22.5 Celsius and the low was 13 Celsius.

## Shamir says no to U.N., Levy says yes to EC

PARIS (Agencies) — Israel has agreed to participation by the European Community in eventual Middle East peace talks, Luxembourg's Foreign Minister Jacques Poos said Wednesday.

Poos, whose country currently holds the EC's rotating presidency, said Israel had agreed that the community would participate alongside the United States and Soviet Union if the peace conference proposed by U.S. Secretary of State James A. Baker takes place.

The announcement followed talks between EC officials and Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy.

The EC "will be present at the conference table and in the working groups," said Poos, noting that Baker's plan also called for direct dialogue between Israel and its Arab neighbours.

Poos said Israel had agreed that the EC could send an envoy to the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip to study possible aid for residents of those territories. Poos said Israel could depend on economic support from the EC once peace was established.

On Tuesday, Levy had expressed hope that a role for the EC could be arranged but reiterated Israel's opposition to participation by the United Nations. He

said the world body could be "advised" of any agreements later.

But Levy said, "we will speak in direct talks. Once we have reached an agreement on all bilateral points between Israel and the Arab nations, then we can surely advise the United Nations that we have succeeded in resolving the problems and reached peace."

Levy said in a radio interview on Wednesday a regional Middle East peace conference might take place within weeks.

Levy, visiting Paris, was asked by Radio France International if such a conference could take place in several weeks if Israel replied favourably to proposals about talks reported to have been forwarded to it by U.S. President George Bush.

He replied: "I am sure that all sides know this is an historic occasion that must be seized and I believe the answer is yes. Perhaps within two, three or four weeks, I cannot say, but certainly soon, I'm sure of it."

Asked how the vexed issue of Palestinian representation could be solved, Levy said: "You are now entering into the kind of details that can endanger the current move towards the holding of this conference."

Levy gave no further details about the proposed conference.

## 12-year-old Yemeni tried in Kuwait

By Hamza Hendawi  
Reuter

KUWAIT — Twelve-year-old Ahmed Sheiba, a Kuwaiti-born Yemeni, trembled as he pleaded not guilty on Wednesday to charges of theft.

He was the youngest to appear so far before martial courts set up by Kuwait to try to punish 200 people — mostly Iraqis or Jordanians of Palestinian origin — accused of collaboration with Iraq during its seven-month occupation of the emirate.

"My son is very young, please let him go," she shouted. "He never did anything wrong."

Wearing a dirty white galabiya (robe), Sheiba said he did not know an 11-year-old boy being tried in absentia for aiding him in the theft from a flat in a poor Kuwaiti district.

The prosecution alleges that

Sheiba's father, an imam at a mosque, was not in court.

The judge is looking into a case involving at least 40 people whose charges range from rape to theft and aiding Iraqi occupation forces.

Sheiba, replying to a judge's question, did not remember when he was arrested. Asked whether he realised where he was, he replied: "In court of course."

"I never left home during the occupation," said Sheiba. On his toes to peer up at the judge, who

the prosecution alleges that women's clothes were stolen.

Other defendants in Wednesday's case were mostly Jordanians, Palestinians, Iraqis and Egyptians.

Palestinians have so far provided the majority of defendants in collaboration cases, a fact they say is the result of a witch-hunt by Kuwaiti authorities and self-styled militiamen after the ousting of the Iraqis in February.

The heaviest sentence handed down so far was a 15-year jail term to a young Iraqi man convicted of sympathising with the occupiers. His chief offence was wearing a Saddam Hussein T-shirt in public.

Sheiba was released to his parents' custody when his case was postponed.

## Search goes on for survivors of Addis Ababa's arms dump blast

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia (AP) — Rescue workers and residents picked through the shattered, smoldering remains of a sprawling slum Wednesday searching for victims and survivors of an ammunition dump explosion.

At least five people were confirmed killed and the death toll was expected to grow much higher. A series of blasts shook the capital for nearly nine hours Tuesday after the ammunition dump was set off. No one has claimed responsibility for the incident.

Abraham Mulugeta Eddo, secretary of Addis Ababa's Red Cross branch, confirmed five dead and said 184 people had been taken to hospitals.

"Some people are talking about other (casualty) figures, but ours are very specific," Abraham said.

Dr. Tebeye Yemane Berehan, chairman of the Addis Ababa Red Cross, had noted Tuesday that 800 people were killed in another ammunition dump explosion May 21, a far higher toll than had been initially reported.

Rescuers continued a house-by-house search of the Nefas Silk neighbourhood about 3 kilometres south of the city's centre. Officials have said it could take days to establish the final toll of dead and wounded.

The interim government of the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) blamed saboteurs, without naming a specific organisation. No one has claimed responsibility for the act.

A French medical team arrived by plane with surgical equipment Wednesday morning, joining an Italian team already in Addis

Ababa.

As rescuers lifted collapsed roofs and broke through walls in their search for the living and dead, thousands of residents sifted through what remained of their homes to retrieve belongings.

Tens of thousands of rounds of exploded and live bullets, rockets, grenades, and other ammunition littered the two square-kilometre area of factories, light industrial plants, and tightly packed dwellings of wood, mud and sheet metal.

Tuesday's explosion only added to the dire problems facing Ethiopia as it emerges from decades of civil war.

United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar issued an urgent appeal Tuesday for international relief agencies to

send food to Ethiopia and surrounding nations to avoid a massive human tragedy.

Representatives of the EPRDF met with leaders of the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF), which controls the country's only ports, Tuesday to discuss expediting food shipments. The Eritrean rebels had fought for independence for 30 years. Though they are cooperating with the new power in Addis Ababa, they continue to press for an independence referendum.

The EPRDF moved into the capital last Tuesday after 16 years of fighting to unseat former President Mengistu Haile Mariam.

The capital, and much of Ethiopia's countryside, has been beset by unrest for weeks, much of it blamed on defecting soldiers of the former government and young, armed thugs.

## Afghan government claims recapture of northern town

KABUL (R) — Military authorities in the Afghan capital Kabul said Tuesday they had reoccupied

the northern town of Khaja Ghar and indicated that they had bought it back from local Mujahideen guerrillas.

The defence minister, General Mohammad Aslam Watanjar, said the town close to the Soviet border was retaken by government troops Monday with minimal casualties.

There was no independent confirmation of the government's claim, but Mujahideen sources in Pakistan said there had been clashes to the west of Khaja Ghar.

At a news conference, Watanjar said it was better to take a town using pieces of paper than warplanes.

When pressed by reporters, he said there was some truth in reports that government representatives had bought out local

rebel commanders with money.

"This is not a holy war, it's more like trade. They are paid to fight, and we pay them not to," said the general.

Watanjar, considered hardliner in the coalition government of President Najibullah, said similar tactics had been used by Noor Ul-Haq Ulum, governor of the southern city of Kandahar, to limit Mujahideen attacks.

Guerrilla leaders have repeatedly denied reports that the government regularly tries to buy off their local commanders, and it was a rare admission by the government that it does so.

Analysts said the government wanted to discredit the Mujahideen, and in particular forces loyal to the most successful rebel commander, Ahmad Shah Massoud, who captured Khaja Ghar, close to the border of Kunduz and Takhar provinces, in the middle of last month.

## Arab woman gives birth at Israeli army roadblock

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM

—

A woman from Ya'abad being driven to hospital to give birth was stopped by Israeli soldiers for an hour at a roadblock outside Jenin and gave birth to a baby girl in the back of a taxi by the roadside.

The arguments of the husband and the midwife with the soldiers continued for 40 minutes until the labor pains became so severe that the midwife prepared Adhamia to give birth in the back seat of the car.

There was no curfew in Jenin at the time.

At 11:45 p.m. Athamma gave birth to a 3.2 kilo baby. The birth was normal and both mother and child are healthy. — The Jerusalem Post.

## Kuwait wants Iraq removed from ILO

GENEVA (R) — Kuwait will seek Iraq's ouster from the International Labour Organisation (ILO) when the U.N. body holds its annual assembly starting Wednesday.

But ILO Director-General Michel Hansen said Tuesday the Kuwaiti bid stood little chance of success.

"This is a very political move and the ILO, by tradition, does not like to get involved in politics," he told reporters on the eve of the three-week gathering, an annual discussion of labour issues around the world.

The Kuwait delegation has drafted a resolution seeking Iraq's expulsion from the organisation for kidnapping, torturing and killing thousands of workers and employers during its occupation of the emirate.

"There is no precedent of a country being kicked out," said Hansen, a Belgian national. South Africa left the organisa-

tion in 1966 under pressure from fellow members objecting to its racial segregation policies. Albania pulled out in 1967 at the height of its self-imposed isolation, but rejoined last week.

The Geneva-based ILO, which groups government, employer and worker representatives from 149 nations, seeks to promote social justice by setting international labour standards and supervising their implementation.

Hansen said one of the main themes for discussion this year would be how the ILO should deal with 300 million people working outside formally structured economies.

"They belong to what is known as the informal sector. They are people plying their wares in the streets of large Third World cities and who are seen by some as providers of employment and in some cases and by others as a sector escaping regulation," he said.

## MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

### Anti-cancer drug named 'S' for Saddam

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — An anti-cancer drug named "S" for President Saddam Hussein has been discovered by Iraqi medical researchers to treat brain and neck tumors, the official Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported Tuesday. The drug has been named for the Iraqi president "in appreciation of his patronage of the sciences, research and discoveries," said the agency, monitored in Nicosia. No details of the drug were disclosed except that it is a compound that fights certain types of cancer by stimulating the body's immune system. INA quoted Dr. Mahmoud Hayawi Hammash, head of the research team of medical scientists and biologists, as saying the drug had successfully treated cancer of the brain and neck following clinical tests and experiments. The drug is not related to any other anti-cancer research, INA quoted Hammash, director of the Saddam Medical Center in Baghdad, as saying. He said the drug would soon be available cheaply in Iraq. At a news conference, Hammash showed slides and a documentary film of the treatment showing receding brain and neck tumors, INA reported. Brain and neck tumors are the third most widespread types of cancer in Iraq after tongue and throat cancer. Hammash was quoted as saying.

### Arab League chief arrives in Qatar

MANAMA, BAHRAIN (R) — Arab League Secretary General Esamat Abdul Meguid, continuing his bid to patch up Arab differences caused by the Gulf crisis, arrived in Qatar from Saudi Arabia Wednesday. The Gulf News Agency said newly appointed Abdul Meguid, the former Egyptian foreign minister, would hold talks with Qatari officials on ways of "clearing the Arab atmosphere" clouded by Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait and the six-week Gulf war. Abdul Meguid visited Saudi Arabia Monday for talks with foreign ministers of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) who met in Al Khubar on post-war security. He paid a brief visit to Bahrain Tuesday before returning to Saudi Arabia.

### Kuwait oil smoke equal to pack-a-day smoking

LONDON (R) — Breathing the air in Kuwait, polluted by hundreds of burning oil wells, is equivalent to smoking a pack of cigarettes a day. A British junior defence minister told parliament Tuesday. Archie Hamilton said any cancer-causing effects of the smoke were likely to be felt only through long-term exposure. "The effects in the short term are not reckoned to be any worse on our people in Kuwait than somebody who is smoking 20 cigarettes a day or somebody who is suffering from passive smoking," Hamilton said in response to a question. Opposition Labour Party member Tam Dalyell said black spots had been found in the lungs of sheep in Kuwait and suggested that British military personnel and civilians were in dire risk of cancer. But Hamilton said it was no worse than smoking or living in London before its smog crisis was solved in the 1950s.

## Hezbollah commemorates Khomeini's death anniversary

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — Pro-Iranian fundamentalists commemorated the second anniversary of the death of Iranian patriarch Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini with vows to crush Israel and the United States with "our Khomeini fists."

Thousands of bearded men and chador-clad women from the Iranian-backed Hezbollah, or party of God, attended a mass rally at an outdoor court at the Iranian embassy to mark the occasion.

The surprise speaker — and star — at the late afternoon gathering was Khomeini's daughter, Zahra, who said in a speech she had come to Lebanon to be with the "lovers of Khomeini."

As a Hezbollah official presented "Khomeini's sweet fruit," the crowds chanted "our leader is Ruhollah, our party is Hezb-

ollah."

The walls of the embassy were bedecked with black banners and huge posters depicting Khomeini entering the gates of paradise.

The road leading to the embassy was dotted with black flags flying at half mast.

One banner reading "We are all Khomeini's hung incongruously over a colourful ice-cream advertisement, depicting pink panther holding a bowl of ice cream and saying, "Ummmm ... taste it."

One of the speakers was the secretary general of Hezbollah, Abbas Musawi, who said Khomeini had succeeded in turning Lebanon into "a strong base against the colonizer."

"Our last step will be nothing less than winning over Israel and America," said Musawi. "The

## Desert Storm parade looms as grandest since WW II

WASHINGTON (AP) — The thunder of Desert Storm will echo upon the thronged avenues of the capital Saturday, as a mighty blur of air, naval and ground forces pass in review in the grandest celebration of military triumph since World War II.

Eight thousand men and women who took part in the briefest of American wars will parade before their commander-in-chief and perhaps 1.5 million of their fellow citizens. And their field commander, Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf, will — as the ads say — "lead his troops one more time."

They will bring with them implements of their 42-day war in the Gulf: their M1 tanks, their rocket launchers and howitzers, their Cobra and Apache attack helicopters, their F-15 strike Eagles, and the Patriot missile.

For 12 minutes, 82 warplanes will streak through Washington's

restricted skies.

If the celebration lives up to advanced billing, it will be the holiday that President George Bush promised "they'll never forget."

In this city of symbols, large outpourings to stir the patriotic heart or to challenge the national conscience are the norm. But none before has featured such an awesome display of fighting men and women and their machines. Sponsors claim it's the largest military parade since World War II.

America has been on a celebration binge. Saturday's parade is not the first and won't be the last. Hollywood had one that was typically Hollywood. Chicagoans had one and chanted "U.S.A." and New York will have one two days after Washington's.

That has sparked some rivalry. New York columnist Jimmy Bres-

lin says Washington can't have the best parade because "the little town doesn't have New York, Broadway and Ticker Tape."

That's obviously the brashness of New York speaking. We are a bit more elegant than that," says Harry Walters, president of the Desert Storm Homecoming Foundation which is putting on the day-long round of activities in the capital.

New York's parade, he says, is a community parade, including all kinds of different groups. Our parade is designed specifically for only one group of people, those who served in the Persian Gulf and returned."

Walters had 40 days to raise the

ers from the menu, to include 20,000 hot dogs, 40,000 pieces of chicken and 50,000 ice creams, will be donated to shelters for the homeless.

At night, there will be fire-works launched from the shores of the Potomac, with the Washington Monument a majestic pointer toward the rockets' glare.

The challenges were met. At last count, Walters was only \$1.2 million short of his goal. The money raised by the committee has come from individual and corporate donations.

The marchers and their families are invited to a picnic for 22,000, on the ellipse just south of the White House. Any leftov-

ers from the menu, to include

the cemetery.

Not everyone is enthralled with

the celebration.

"We have a big hole where a

national sense of purpose ought to be. This is filling that gap," said David Gracie, peace education secretary for the American Friends Service Committee in Philadelphia.

"A lot of folks feel the need to be proud of the country and feel the need to be engaged in some common purpose with their neighbours," he said. "Instead of being offered a common purpose that's decent and enabling, people have been offered preparations for war and celebrations of war."

But Kennedy said the two parades are not comparable. Washington's is being billed as a "military parade" and will feature the president and vice president, as well as tanks, rocket launchers and planes overhead. It is being paid for by a mix of private and public money.

New York's will be a wel-

come-home ticker-tape celebra-

tion for the troops, paid for

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Zuhair Imadi, spokesman for Syrian Ambassador Walid Al Moualem, blamed the up-

turn of the pro-Israel lobby,

and said Syria was "a very

major part of Desert Storm."

plans for Syrian diplomats to participate in New York's Operation Desert Storm parade, set for June 10. Syrian representatives agreed last week to stay away.

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# Home News

## King Hussein to patronise Army Day celebrations

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein will patronise a celebration, to be held at Al Hussein Youth City on June 11, to mark Army Day and the Great Arab Revolt anniversary.

Youth clubs, scouts and girl guides movements and various sports and youth centres as well as popular sectors, the People's Army and students from community college from around the Kingdom will take part in the celebration which will be organised by the Ministry of Culture and Youth, according to Eid Al Fayed, the ministry's secretary general.

Mr. Fayed told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the

June 11 celebration would mark the end of this year's celebrations and ceremonies, held in different parts of the Kingdom, in commemoration of the country's independence anniversary.

Over the past week, the Ministry of Youth in cooperation with a number of other concerned government departments have held seminars, book, traditional costume, handicraft and paintings exhibitions around the country to mark the occasion.

Mr. Fayed said that the ministry had made all arrangements for the June 11 celebration which is to be attended by prominent public figures and representatives of various organisations.

## First pilgrims leave for Mecca Thursday

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan will Thursday send off the first batch of Muslims performing this year's pilgrimage in Mecca, with a special ceremony to be held at the Amman Fair Centre under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

The ceremony for the Palestinian pilgrims who are making the trip by land through Jordan has been organised by the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs with the purpose of providing the pilgrims with religious guidance for the pilgrimage (Hajj) which ends by June 22 with the celebration of Eid Al Adha (feast of sacrifice).

According to the ministry announcement, there will be another ceremony, to be held under Prince Hassan's patronage on Saturday, to see off pilgrims on Jordan.

Saudi Arabia last week said that Palestinian pilgrims should make the trip through Egypt, thus creating a problem that was later settled through contacts between the concerned ministries in Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Jordan.

The decline in the number of Muslims performing the Hajj this year was attributed to the current economic situation in the Kingdom and in Palestine and to tension caused by the Gulf war and its consequences on the Arab World.

Mr. Hilayel, who made a trip to Saudi Arabia earlier last month to discuss matters related to the pilgrims, said he had signed an agreement with the Saudi authorities that would ensure very good treatment of the Jordanian pilgrims.

## Closure of factories adversely affects economy — Abu Hassan

By Serene Halata  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Owners and representatives of factories closed down by the government for allegedly violating health safety regulations, Wednesday convened to review the latest developments concerning the closure of their factories.

During the meeting, Khalid Abu Hassan, president of the Jordan Chamber of Industry, said that he, along with other factory owners, met with officials from various ministries to discuss the situation.

"We met with representatives from the Trade and Industry Ministry, Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Ministry, and Water and Irrigation Ministry," Mr. Abu Hassan said. "We were then told to meet with the owners of the factories in order to draw up some kind of a plan," he added.

Mr. Abu Hassan suggested that the main issue to tackle at this stage is to allow the finished products at the factories leave the premises for consumption, and to permit the unloading of raw material from trucks awaiting outside the factory.

Participants at the meeting, which was held at the Jordan Chamber of Industry, voiced concern over the closure of their factories, saying that it was "unfair, and irresponsible."

"I received a sudden order to close down my factory," Rimond Halata, president of

the Jordan Yeast Company said. "My factory has never violated any law," he added.

According to Mr. Halata, the Jordan Yeast Company had signed in the early 80s an agreement with the National Planning Council in order to use the factory's excess water to irrigate woods around the factory. "This water, upon agreement by more than one official party, is used to irrigate woods around the factory area," he said.

Commenting on the closure, Mamdouh Abu Hassan, president of the Jordan Businessmen Association, said that this action had cost the country millions of dinars in lost income, which, in turn, would adversely affect the national economy in general and the industrial sector in particular.

The closure, Mr. Abu Hassan said, will no doubt affect the process of exports to foreign markets and can by no means end the pollution problem in the Zarqa River basin.

The closure came at a time when the private and public sectors were trying to join forces to bolster the national economy in the aftermath of the great damage sustained by the Gulf crisis and the war that followed.

Abu Hassan also noted that the closure of the factories places serious responsibility on the authorities who ordered it. He also stressed on the need to study the case of each factory separately, because, according to him, each factory causes a different kind of pollution that requires a different form of treatment.

The meeting was preceded by another one with Iraqi Prime Minister Saadoun Hammadi.

Dr. Arabiyat and his team earlier met with Saadi Mahdi Saleh, speaker of the Iraqi People's Assembly, and heard from him details about the Iraqi-Kurdish agreement, which, he said, would put an end to various problems in the north.

In the talks between the two sides, topics like means for restoring solidarity among Arab states and efforts to lift the economic embargo on Iraq were discussed.

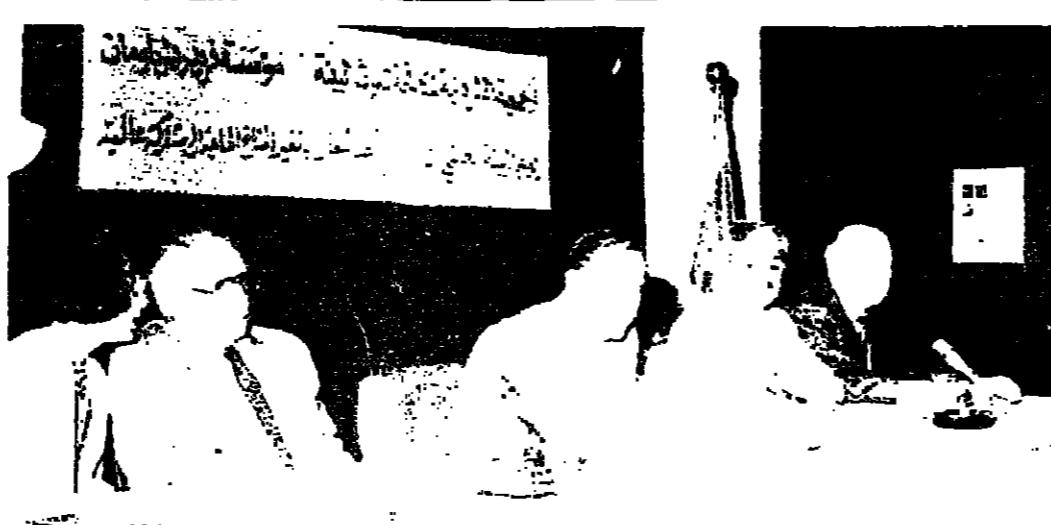
Earlier Dr. Arabiyat and his team had visited a memorial for the unknown soldier and laid a wreath in respect for those who fell in the U.S.-led aggression on Iraq.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

### EXHIBITIONS

- Exhibition of etchings, lithographs and monoprints, by Ahmad Nawash and Yasser Duwek at Abdul Haimek Shoman Foundation (10 a.m. — 3 p.m.)
- Exhibition of photographs by Bernard Guillot at the French Cultural Centre — 6:00 p.m.
- Comprehensive book exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- Exhibition of paintings by Iraqi artist Abdul Jabbar Salmen at Alia Art Gallery, Insurance Building, 1st Circle (opening ceremony at 6 p.m.)



Jordan Society for the Control of Environment Wednesday chairs a meeting discussing climate changes in the world (Petra photo)

## Seminar tackles protection of environment from pollution

AMMAN (J.T.) — A one-day symposium on climate change in the world was held Wednesday at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) in Amman as part of Jordan's observance of the International Environment Day.

The activity, organised by the Jordan Society for the Control of Environment Pollution in cooperation with the Friedrich Naumann Foundation of Germany, focused attention on the need for all individuals as well as organisations in Jordan to cooperate in a drive to protect the earth's atmosphere and safeguard the environment.

The society president, Ahmad Obeidat, said that his group was working to safeguard the future for the coming generation. He said that those who caused pollution should be held responsible for their action and forced to pay the price of cleaning up the mess.

Mr. Obeidat voiced appreciation to the Friedrich Naumann

Foundation for its efforts in helping Jordan deal with the protection of the environment.

Anis Muasher, president of the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN) said that protecting the environment was a national and international responsibility. "It is horrifying to learn that half of the forests on the globe and one million of living species as well as one third of the arable land on earth would be lost by the end of the present century," said Mr. Muasher.

Head of the Department of Environment at the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Sufian Al Tal warned of the continued process of heating up the earth's atmosphere and said this would have serious consequences on the world climate and the displacement of 120 million people living on the shores, due to the rise of the sea level.

It is said that the increase of carbon dioxide concentration and other pollutants had led to the "greenhouse effect" and that heat which reaches earth from the sun is mostly absorbed by pollutants and kept near the earth. It is estimated that by the end of this century the earth's crust temperature would rise within a range of 2-3 degrees centigrade.

The statement said that the world has to make quick and effective moves to reduce the pollutants responsible for the increase in temperature.

## 7 killed in last week of May

AMMAN (Petra) — A total of seven citizens were killed and 153 others injured in 353 road accidents in Jordan in the last week of May 1991, according to a statement by the Public Security De-

partment (PSD) Wednesday.

The statement noted that the figure was less by 76 compared to the previous week, and the injured people were less by 15. It noted that of these accidents,

238 were in the capital while the rest occurred in Zarqa, Aqaba, Balqa, Irbid, Karak, Maan, Mafraq, Tafleah and Madaba districts.

## Deputies, Iraqi president review Arab issues



Abdul Latif Arabiyat

BAGHDAD (Petra) — A Jordanian parliamentary delegation led by Lower House Speaker Abdul Latif Arabiyat was received here Wednesday by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein who voiced his country's appreciation of Jordan's continued support to Iraq.

Dr. Arabiyat reviewed with the president current Arab affairs and relations between Jordan and Iraq.

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Dr. Arabiyat and his team earlier met with Saadi Mahdi Saleh, speaker of the Iraqi People's Assembly, and heard from him details about the Iraqi-Kurdish agreement, which, he said, would put an end to various problems in the north.

In the talks between the two sides, topics like means for restoring solidarity among Arab states and efforts to lift the economic embargo on Iraq were discussed.

Earlier Dr. Arabiyat and his team had visited a memorial for the unknown soldier and laid a wreath in respect for those who fell in the U.S.-led aggression on Iraq.

## Housing units to help settle Gulf returnees

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government Wednesday announced plans to help settle Jordanian expatriates who have returned from Kuwait and other Gulf countries during and after the Gulf crisis and is using money from a special crisis fund to finance housing projects benefiting the returnees.

The announcement was made by Housing Corporation Director Yousef Hiyasat who said that an initial amount of JD 4 million had been allocated to build homes for the displaced returnees.

The Housing Corporation has now finalised plans and studies to set up a number of housing estates to meet the need of the returnees and work will soon begin on their implementation," Hiyasat noted.

He said that one of the housing estates would be located at Marka 275 units, at the cost of JD 3 million, will be set up. Work on this estate, he said, will begin in the coming two months.

This housing estate comprises three types of units of 110, 89 and 85 square metres in area, and the total area of the units will be around 27,000 square metres. Mr. Hiyasat pointed out.

He said that once work had been completed, the corporation would publish the names of the beneficiaries who have already requested the homes.

Mr. Hiyasat, who is also acting director of the Urban Development Department (UDD) said that the UDD would carry out the building of two housing estates, one at Ruseifa, north of Amman, where 50 units will be set up on separate plots of land at the cost of JD 1.1 million. Work on the project is expected to be completed by the middle of next year, Mr. Hiyasat added.

The second project, Mr. Hiyasat said, entailed preparing plots of land for the returnees to buy and set up homes benefiting from a special arrangement for payment to the UDD.

He said the project would be carried out on 210 dunums which would be purchased and prepared for the housing units at the cost of JD 4.5 million. He added that work on the project was expected to be completed by the end of 1992.

The Housing Corporation and the UDD had earlier announced that they received requests from returnees wishing to acquire homes in Amman, Irbid, Mafrag, Jerash, Ajlou, Sahab, Almanara and Queisreh.

From the foreign aid it received in the wake of the Gulf war, the Jordanian government had allocated JD 120 million as a crisis fund, separate from the 1991 budget, to help repair damage to Jordan's various sectors. The

minister said that in accordance with a national housing strategy, adopted by the corporation in 1989, beneficiaries, mostly low-income groups, are allowed to repay the loans with low interest rates over a period of 30 years.

The officials said that the corporation planned to build 2,100 housing units each year in order to help the Kingdom cope with the growing demand for housing.

They said that in accordance with a national housing strategy, adopted by the corporation in 1989, beneficiaries, mostly low-income groups, are allowed to repay the loans with low interest rates over a period of 30 years.

The conference issued a statement pledging that the participants would remain determined to maintain cooperation in enriching the literature pertaining to the Arab children's culture and education, a process considered as a national duty to promote children's knowledge in all fields.

The minister said that the participants had pledged to exchange expertise and draw up joint plans for the attainment of the conference's aspirations.

Mr. Karaki said that the three-day conference had revised progress in the implementation of the seventh meeting's resolutions and

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## Jordan Times

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Chairman of the Board of Directors: MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General: MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief: GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices: Jordan Press Foundation,

University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Faximile: 661242

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## Arabs want genuine change

ONLY days after U.S. Secretary of Defence Richard Cheney concluded his talks with Israeli officials to cement the strategic and security agreements between their countries, Israeli warplanes pounded Palestinian bases in South Lebanon killing scores and injuring many more, including many children. In what has been described as the fiercest attacks since the invasion of Lebanon in 1982, bases of several factions of the PLO were hammered in waves involving squads of warplanes that conducted no less than 18 sorties. This latest flexing of Israeli military power, coming as it does in the middle of a serious search for a viable peace process to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict, not only appears intended at snubbing U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's peace initiative and aborting the early modest successes that it had enjoyed but also to undermine the recent Syrian-Lebanese cooperation and friendship treaty that promised to end the civil strife there. The aggressive Israeli actions come also amidst the call for the construction of confidence building measures between the antagonists in the Middle East.

The question that looms in the horizon is whether Tel Aviv is reverting to its old tactics that aim to beat up the military situation in the area every time there is semblance of a peace movement that appears to have promise. What better way to stultify the embryonic peace process than to attack one or two of the principal parties and put in place the psychology of war instead of the psychology of peace and stability. By engaging the Palestinians, the Syrians and the Lebanese in an escalating armed conflict Israel is simply setting the stage for a broader military confrontation in the region rather than for a peace parley. As a matter of fact, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir is poised to reject the appeal of U.S. President George Bush for flexibility on the terms and conditions of the projected peace conference. Sources in Shamir's office told the Jerusalem Post Tuesday that the issues related to the U.N. involvement and the EC role "are critical" for Israel and that Shamir is not about to budge on them.

What all this boils down to is that Israel is better prepared to wage war than to seek for peace. Given the U.S. muted reaction to the heavy bombardment of southern Lebanon and the near silence of the other powers in the U.N. Security Council, Tel Aviv can be expected to feel encouraged by its latest language of death and destruction that it is using against the Arab side. U.S. State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler was quoted as having said that "whenever this happens (the Israeli air raids), we have always spoken out and said that we would like to see this tragic cycle of violence end." "Our policy," she continued, "has not changed today." What the Arab parties would like to see is indeed a definitive change in the U.S. policy vis-a-vis such Israeli attacks rather than the continuation of the old policies that only encouraged Tel Aviv to push harder and harder against its Arab neighbours. Meanwhile, the quest for a lasting peace and security in the region gets bogged down and stymied more than ever. Had Washington and its allies spoken more forcefully against this new cycle of violence perpetrated by Israel, it would have given more credence to its protestations that it is seriously and earnestly brokering a just and permanent peace. Having opted to keep such a low profile, its signal to the Arab parties can be anything but positive.

### ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

ALL three Jordanian Arabic dailies Wednesday tackled Israel's latest air raids on Palestinian and Lebanese positions in southern Lebanon resulting in the death of innocent people. Al Ra'i Arabic daily for its part said not a single western capital will raise its voice in protest against such atrocity and the U.N. Security Council would not issue any resolution that would put an end to such criminal actions. As some countries of the world bus themselves with the Middle East question and try to find a just settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestine problem, the Israelis display their insistence on pursuing acts of terrorism and acts of aggression, openly defying the world community in general and the Arabs in particular, said Al Ra'i. The women and children and the school children slain in the Israeli raid on Lebanon Tuesday and Monday were sacrificed in order to please the Zionists and their backers in Washington, London, Rome, Paris, Moscow and Peking, said the paper. The daily noted that there can be no such thing as international legitimacy if it is applied on one country and not all countries on equal footing; and if backing Israel's aggressions on the Arabs is part of the international legitimacy then it should rather be called "racist legitimacy" because it openly supports the aggressor against the victim and encourages the Zionists to continue their defiance of the world community and its resolutions, the paper noted. The air raid on Lebanon, the paper concluded, was a message to the United Nations and its secretary general who still claim to be searching for a settlement to the 1967 Arab-Israeli conflict.

Sawt Al Shaab Arabic daily said that the air raid on Lebanon bears a clear sign that the Israelis have drawn up plans and plots in order to launch a new aggression so as to create new realities and new situations in the Arab region with which to keep the world public opinion busy and diverted from the real chronic problems. Describing the raid as brutal and barbaric, the paper said that Israel could be provoking Syria to draw it into a conflict and at the same time disposing of Palestinian resistance positions in southern Lebanon lest they would serve as a springboard for future attacks on the Israeli military. The paper pointed out that since Syria and Lebanon reached a "brotherly treaty" in the past month, the Israelis have been trying to find an excuse to disrupt it and to upset the governments in Beirut and Damascus.

## U.S. tribunal charges Bush with war crimes

By Joe Lauria

The following article is reprinted from The Guardian, a New York-based radical newsmagazine.

THE image on the screen seemed to be evidence enough that Washington committed war crimes in the Gulf. Three Iraqi children in a dingy Baghdad hospital: a little girl by the bed of two survivors of the air raid shelter gutted in February by U.S. bombs; a crying, bandaged girl of about three; an infant with a distorted, almost melted face. Their shocked and confused eyes stared out at the camera.

The handful of people who remained to the end of a daylong New York City meeting on alleged U.S. war crimes were visibly shaken. "We must ensure that this will never again be perpetrated in our name," said Karen Talbot, director of the San Francisco-based International Centre for Peace and Justice, who chaired the final panel in the May 11 session.

Nearly 800 people gathered May 11 for the first hearing by a Commission of Inquiry set up to organise an International War Crimes Tribunal. The tribunal is tentatively scheduled for February, possibly in The Hague, the Dutch city that is the site of the World Court. That will be the culmination of hearings due in some 35 U.S. cities and more than 20 other countries.

The Commission of Inquiry was organised by the National Coalition to Stop U.S. Intervention in the Middle East, one of two umbrella organisations that coordinated nationwide protests against the Gulf war.

(The other, the National Campaign for Peace in the Middle East, recently closed its national office in New York.)

The video of Iraqi children, which drew such a strong emotional response, was produced by the American Network for Service and Relief in coordination with the Muslim Public Affairs

Council. It was one of several films that complemented evidence against Washington offered by nearly two dozen speakers on six panels.

After a standing ovation, former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark, who convened the commission of inquiry, declared that "governments that wage wars of conquest against others (must be) accountable to the people for their conduct." If the people had risen up throughout history to stop governments, the continuing tragedies of war might have been averted, he argued.

"Now we see new threats to life, the use of technology against life," said Clark. "It is absolutely imperative that the peoples of this planet hold accountable the great powers... who destroyed Iraq and threaten every poor nation today."

"For this reason," he added, "these commission hearings, in one of the largest criminal investigations in history, will examine a single complaint, charging (the Bush administration) and others to be named later with crimes against peace, war crimes, crimes against humanity and other criminal acts."

The White House and the Pentagon rejected an invitation from the commission to defend themselves at the hearing.

### Scathing indictment

Clark said 19 detailed charges had been established. They include: provoking Iraq into war in order to destroy it; preventing peace talks; deliberately destroying civilian infrastructure; intentionally bombing civilians; killing fleeing or surrendering Iraqi soldiers; using prohibited weapons to inflict unnecessary suffering; attacking nuclear sites, chemical plants and dams; corrupting the United Nations; usurping the U.S. Congress' right to declare war; destroying the environment; inciting a civil war; depriving Iraqi civilians of essentials for survival and attacking after the ceasefire.

The commission's initial complaint charges that the Pentagon

planned as far back as 1989 to move against Iraq, and that the CIA directed Kuwait to provoke Baghdad by violating OPEC agreements, stealing Iraqi oil reserves and breaking off border talks. The complaint also alleges that in July 1990 Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf ran computerised war games against mock Iraqi armoured divisions.

The commission of inquiry is also probing the economic and social effects of the war worldwide.

Former Centre for Constitutional Rights Director Michael Ratner, who represented several members of Congress in a court challenge to the constitutionality of the war, outlined the legal basis for the war crimes charges. Ratner explained the two broad categories of such charges: crimes against peace and crimes against humanity.

The first of these is the planning, preparation or initiation of a war of aggression as well as blocking peace efforts, said Ratner. He pointed to the U.N. Charter, which requires all members to "settle their international

disputes by peaceful means." The charter also mandates parties to "seek a solution by negotiation, enquiry, mediation, conciliation, arbitration, judicial settlement, resort to regional agencies or arrangements or other peaceful means."

Instead, President Bush insisted on "no negotiations, no compromise, no face-saving," and ridiculed Iraqi and Arab peace offers. Ratner and other speakers charged Clark, Ratner and others also stressed the U.S. corruption of the U.N. Security Council. "Few people realise," said Ratner, "that after the resolution permitting force, the U.S. gave a check for 189 million to pay off part of its \$500 million debt to the U.N."

The commission's initial complaint charges that the Pentagon

York by Nawal Al Saadawi, president of Arab Women's Solidarity Association and author of "The Hidden Face of Eve" and other groundbreaking feminist works. "There were millions of women and men in the Arab World who were against the war and demonstrated but they are ignored by the media," she told the tribunal.

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The deaths of thousands of Iraqi civilians and the destruction of the country's urban support system have been well-documented by two U.N. reports, by Ramsey Clark's journey there during the war and in reports from post-war eyewitnesses such as Adel Abed of the Palestine Aid Society, who spoke at

the hearing.

But the risks and limitations of U.S. involvement are also apparent.

Only two days after U.S. mediation in Ethiopia paved the way for rebels to enter Addis Ababa, the rebels were shooting anti-American demonstrators who blamed Washington for the victory of rival ethnic groups.

"We're walking into a vacuum. There's no one else to do these things," said Kim Holmes of the conservative Heritage Foundation.

"The danger is we may get dragged into situations we should stay out of and end up taking sides in ethnic disputes which we cannot solve."

Even minor gestures by the United States can take on more significance than in the past. This gives U.S. policymakers unrivaled influence but also requires unprecedented caution, analysts said.

Analysts say the U.S. has no vital strategic interests in Yugoslavia, yet Washington's decision to punish Serbia by suspending a paltry \$5 million in aid and withdrawing support for international loans had an immediate and major political impact.

It is the kind of role Bush appears to relish.

"Recently, many here and abroad wondered whether America still possessed the strength and the will to bear the burden of world leadership. My fellow Americans, we do and we will," he told his Colorado audience.

"We don't have a formal position on the war crimes tribunal," Campaign spokesperson Leslie Cagan told The Guardian. "Many individuals are supportive of it as well as of continuing the movement." With regard to the anti-war work on a national level, Cagan noted, "The campaign came together as a national structure for local and national groups to unify their efforts. It was never a free-standing organisation."

The tribunal also charged the United States with crimes against civilians far from the war zone. Joe Franco, of ACT UP, said more money was spent on the war in 10 days than on fighting AIDS over the last decade. Striking City University of New York student Jennifer Whalen spoke of tuition, hikes at public universities, and Neal Saad, director of the Brooklyn, N.Y.-based Arab-American Community Centre documented cases of official harassment of Arab-Americans during the Gulf war.

The war's cost to the economies of Asia and Africa, resulting from the abrupt return home of workers from Kuwait and Iraq — most of whom had lost all of their savings and property — was also entered as evidence against the United States.

Michigan Kaku, professor of nuclear physics at the City University, said Bush had ignored "pleadings" by environmentalists not to go to war and has now "turned his back on the greatest environmental disaster in history. Imagine 500 oil wells burning in Chicago," Kaku added. "New York City would be partially darkened by the soot, which is 10 times that produced by the entire United States."

Kaku estimates it could take six years to put out the Kuwaiti oil fires, the origins of which are still unknown. The physicist also blasted Bush for "deliberately targeting nuclear and chemical facilities," which will make "nuclear power plants fair game in future wars."

Groups active in the Campaign for Peace in the Middle East were notably absent from the tribunal, which in the end was slow to file out. About 50 remained at the hearing ended six hours later, with the image of the suffering Iraqi children seared in their minds.

## Stop rewarding Israel

By Sama Atiyeh

Arab lands occupation? How are we supposed to look at the continued bombardment of south Lebanon with the world being silent over these crimes and silent over Israeli crimes against the Palestinians living under Israeli occupation? The Russian and Ethiopian immigrants keep flowing into Israel in the tens of thousands as Palestinians living in the diaspora in refugee camps are waiting for their legitimate rights to be implemented. Jewish settlements keep popping up like wild weeds in the West Bank while the U.S. maintains they are just an obstacle to peace. Israel celebrates its 24th year of its illegal occupation by bombing south Lebanon and receiving generous loans to accommodate foreign-speaking immigrants on property that does not even belong to them. The international reaction (acutely non-reactive) to Israeli measures and violations of every basic human rights is beyond comprehension. If the world was upright (to use an understatement) about Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, where is this same world gone to when Israel continues to bomb, kill and invade? Where are the great western media organisations that spent millions of dollars to cover the "Iraqi atrocities" in the past year, as if atrocities are only committed by that particular country?

We will not ask the influential leaders of this world to apply the same standards on Israel as it applied them on Iraq to get it out of Kuwait by launching a full-scale war. We ask for less: Stop rewarding Israel for its atrocities against the Palestinians and the Lebanese. Stop giving money to Israel for settling Jews on Arab territories. Stop giving Israel weapons that is all we ask.

## LETTERS

### Fine not fined

To the Editor:

WE were very surprised to read the name Fine Hygienic Paper Co. within the list of factories closed down by the authorities for violating health safety regulations in your article "21 Factories closed down for polluting Zarqa River basin" published on page 3 (June 5).

Fine Hygienic was never included under any such order and has never violated the law nor has it ever been a violator of health and safety regulations.

Fine Hygienic Paper Co. Ltd.

## U.S. Iraq dilemma persists

By Bernd Debusschert  
Reuter

WASHINGTON — Three months after the Gulf war, the U.S. position as world leader is coming into sharper focus, bringing new challenges and pressures to bear on President George Bush.

Bush led the allied coalition during the Gulf Crisis, setting the pace but acting in concert with others.

Since then, the United States has been thrust into new situations without the old countervail of rival influence from a Soviet Union now absorbed in its own crises.

Last week for example it was U.S. officials who arranged the terms of a rebel victory in Ethiopia, traditionally a Soviet client.

Bush himself described his vision of the U.S. role in world affairs in a speech in Colorado last week, where he also unveiled the first major Middle East arms control initiative in 35 years.

"We can't right all wrongs, but neither can any nation lead as we can," Bush said.

"We do not dictate the courses

actions follow, but neither can we overlook the fact that our examples reshape the world."

His Middle East arms control package was an attempt to set

such an example, designed to coax the world's major weapons suppliers into a more responsible sales policy.

But political analysts said major components of the initiative, though praiseworthy, would almost certainly prove impossible to implement.

"Do I think the whole package can be implemented in the short term? No," said Marvin Feuerwerker, a former head of policy planning at the Pentagon now with the Washington Institute for Near East Policy.

"Do I think some aspects might have the chance for limited success? Yes," he added.

Washington has assumed a key role in the affairs of several countries, including Ethiopia, where in the past it deferred to others.

"Behind the American involvement in the Ethiopian situation lies the realisation that, much as we might like to stay on the sidelines in Third World strife, it is better to bring our weight to bear discreetly and in good time," said Paul Henze, a Rand Corporation expert on the horn of Africa.

"This lesson has been learned in Liberia, in Somalia and in the Iraqi-Kurdish situation," Henze said, citing these examples of the collapse of order and great human suffering with no effective political impact.

It is in stark contrast to the heady days after the fighting stopped at the end of February, few U.S. officials now predict President Saddam's downfall soon.

Some privately speak in terms of years rather than months, no matter how tight the economic noose around Iraq is pulled.

In the clearest signal yet that it intends to pull that noose as tight as it can, the Bush administration this week announced it wanted Iraq to pay 50 per cent of its future oil income in war reparations.

United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar has suggested a 30 per cent ceiling, a figure acceptable to all of Washington's war allies except Kuwait.

The U.S. demand is part of a post-war strategy which

apparently aims to use sanctions to make daily life in Iraq so miserable that someone will act to remove the Iraqi president, the man president George Bush has reportedly likened to Hitler.

Bush has said sanctions against Iraq must remain in force as long as Saddam is in power.

The Iraqi leader stayed on.

"Had the U.S. used its overwhelming air superiority in support of the rebels, it is unlikely Saddam would be ruling Iraq today," said Harvard University's Laurie Mylroie, a leading U.S. expert on Iraq.

The Iraqi leader's continued presence has caused a distinct shift in how Americans view the war: according to a poll conducted for Newsweek magazine in May, 55 per cent of those questioned

# Weekender

## An empire built on beans

By Katia Sabet

CAIRO — Amina Zaghlul's claim to fame as a child was that she came from the same family that produced Saad Zaghlul, one of modern Egypt's founding fathers. Today Amina Zaghlul is a well-known figure in her own right, the owner of a chain of restaurants called *Felfela* that specialise in the classic but simple dishes of Egypt. To become the successful businesswoman that she is today, Zaghlul had to turn her back on tradition and challenge at every step the notion that a woman's place was definitely not in business.

Unlike her illustrious ancestor, who came from a village near the northern city of Fawah, Zaghlul grew up in Alexandria. It was here that she spent her all-too-brief childhood. At 14, after receiving a rudimentary education, Amina was married off to a cousin.

Her life seemed mapped out for her: Marriage, children and the house, just as it was for most of her friends in the Egypt of the 1940s. But little did anyone know, least of all Amina herself, that one day this quiet girl would break all the conventions of her time and become a wealthy businesswoman. The *Felfela* chain of restaurants has become a household name to Egyptians and foreign tourists alike.

Today Zaghlul, in her early fifties, elegant and dressed with flair, has trouble recalling much about her early years, not, it seems, because her memory has failed her, but rather because she has subconsciously drawn a veil over the oppressive upbringing that was normal for young girls in those days. Her break

with tradition and the decision to launch herself into the world of commerce is something she remembers far more clearly.

"If, at a certain stage in my life, I decided to embark on a money-making activity, it was quite simply due to the fact that having had three children, I found myself, at the age of 20 or 22, with nothing left to do in life," said Zaghlul. "I didn't want just to be a consumer. I loathe women who have nothing better to do than go to the hairdresser or the club and who spend the rest of their lives chatting on the phone. I don't believe we were put on this earth to waste away our time like that. I started looking for a way of occupying my spare time so I wouldn't feel completely useless. Clearly, the only way of beating the small identity crisis I was going through was to find myself some work, but just what kind of work was another matter."

### Career in Fashion

Zaghlul began her career as a working woman in a field she thought would be easy: She decided to launch her own fashion design studio. "I knew nothing about designing or cutting clothes, but I hired some experts and I plunged in, relying on my own imagination and taste," she said. "I soon had 20 staff under me, and I even opened a boutique in one of the smartest parts of Cairo. Everything was going wonderfully... but I had a problem. I couldn't stand my customers, their terrible taste, their arrogance and their whims. That's why I threw the whole thing in and made a complete change of direction — from fashion to catering."

Zaghlul closed down the studio and, after a series of setbacks, opened a tiny restaurant in a narrow alleyway, sandwiched between two buildings in the heart of Cairo. Again she decided to put her faith in her own personal taste, and her instinct proved a winner.

"And that attitude was mirrored in every aspect of my daily life. If I needed an official document, it was a drama trying to get hold of it. If I had to go to a ministry to obtain a license there were always endless questions and 'come back tomorrow.' At that time, it wasn't very easy to be a businesswoman in Egypt."

To make matters even more difficult, Zaghlul was very attractive, and like many beautiful women, she had a hard time getting people to take her seriously, she recalls. "I swear that even now I meet some people with the same outdated ideas and the same disapproval etched on their faces," she said. "The eastern woman is emancipated, it's true, but that doesn't mean this has been accepted everywhere with good grace."

Zaghlul is clearly sensitive on this point, scarred from 30 years of battling for the right to carve a place in a world strictly controlled by men. To her credit, she now has seven restaurants scattered throughout Cairo, from the centre of town to the Pyramid area, and from the north of Cairo to Maadi, a smart southern suburb. All of them are decorated in the same style, in keeping with the peasant traditions that also dictate their menus.

As she spoke during a recent interview in one of her seven establishments, Zaghlul was handing out advice

great deal of public criticism. Even the press had something to say about her venture.

"It was considered shameful that a woman should do certain things, such as opening a studio or a restaurant serving boiled broad beans," she said. "And that attitude was mirrored in every aspect of my daily life. If I needed an official document, it was a drama trying to get hold of it. If I had to go to a ministry to obtain a license there were always endless questions and 'come back tomorrow.' At that time, it wasn't very easy to be a businesswoman in Egypt."

Zaghlul's menus are also some of the most reasonably priced in town. Only here can diners eat a hearty, satisfying meal and leave the table with a check for less than \$2 a head. Meanwhile customers also enjoy a backdrop of garlands of flowers, with clusters and fronds trailing from the ceiling, twirling around the columns and covering the walls. Banking as always on her own intuitive taste, Zaghlul has used bright colours for the decor, with plenty of gold and silver. The lighting, provided by soft multicoloured glass lamps, adds the final touch.

### It all began as a joke

Even now, Zaghlul sometimes finds it difficult to digest the extent of her success. "It all began as something of a joke," she said. "I never for a moment thought the business would grow to this size. No one had ever before tried to sell Egypt's traditional cuisine, so I had nothing at all on which to

and encouragement to her staff, with a ready smile as always, moving among the scrubbed and waxed wooden tables, whose paper tablecloths also serve as the menus. On offer were a dozen 'foul' dishes, each one different, some with cream, some with eggs, others with tomatoes, all of them created by Zaghlul herself and unique to her chain of eateries. To accompany them, there was a good selection of eastern-style salads, and traditional sweets such as the famous *Oman Ali*, a mouth-watering concoction of unleavened bread soaked in a sweet milk-based custard and topped with raisins and finely chopped hazelnuts.

Zaghlul's success is also some of the most reasonably priced in town. Only here can diners eat a hearty, satisfying meal and leave the table with a check for less than \$2 a head. Meanwhile customers also enjoy a backdrop of garlands of flowers, with clusters and fronds trailing from the ceiling, twirling around the columns and covering the walls. Banking as always on her own intuitive taste, Zaghlul has used bright colours for the decor, with plenty of gold and silver. The lighting, provided by soft multicoloured glass lamps, adds the final touch.

Zaghlul is no longer with the cousin she married so young. Her second husband is a senior diplomat, who travels a great deal. Her three sons from her first marriage are grown up and play an active role in their mother's business. Zaghlul made a point of entrusting them with responsibilities from an early age so they would feel directly involved in the family business.

"I'm in the process of creating a tourist village at *Urgada* (Ghardaqa) a place set between the sea and the

## China's home of Kung Fu flourishes

By Janet Snyder

Reuter

Shaolin, China. — Emperors of China could call on the battling monks of Shaolin for protection. Today's graduates from the home of Kung Fu often become cops.

This mountain stronghold in eastern Henan Province was founded in 496 A.D. and rose to prominence both as a centre of Chinese Buddhism and as the home of Kung Fu. The martial art made famous in countless Hong Kong action movies.

Now thousands of students study the kicking, chopping and stabbing Kung Fu techniques here, many to prepare for a career in the police.

"According to the government's needs, they'll work for the public Security Bureau," said coach Shi Deyuan.

According to legend, the sixth century Buddhist teacher Bodhidharma, the founder of the Zen sect, came to Shaolin to meditate. His gauze-eyed image is displayed all over souvenir stalls lining the dusty track leading to the Shaolin Monastery.

After the temple was established its monks came under attack from bandits. They devised their lethal style of unarmed combat in deference to Buddhism's essentially pacifist beliefs.

In the 1960s the Kung Fu craze began with a spate of movies, many starring the late screen idol Bruce Lee.

Thousands of martial arts devotees have been coming here ever since.

At dawn more than 2,000 youngsters in a dozen Kung Fu schools surrounding Shaolin temple put themselves through rigorous exercises, endlessly repeating manoeuvres named after tigers about to spring, drunken monkeys and other creatures.

The students' martial arts forebears, the monks of

Shaolin of whom there are only an elderly handful today, once trained themselves to punch through brick walls, walk on broken glass and climb sheer surfaces.

The stone floor of the temple's candlelit main hall bears deep potholes — made by centuries of stamping, kicking and lunging by Kung Fu devotees.

At the central Shaolin school, Chinese students pay 1,060 Yuan (\$210) a year for Kung Fu training under coach Shi. Training begins in the chill of 4.30 A.M. and can carry on until 10.30 at night.

Food, in keeping with the temple's Buddhist tradition, is mostly vegetarian. The students look lean, but healthy and alert.

Foreign students are welcome but they take separate classes at reduced hours and much more expensive rates.

A dozen of Shi's star pupils showed their stuff at Shaolin's central practice hall. Leading the parade was a cordon of tough-looking boys and girls in high-necked silk pyjamas.

The youngest was 11, the eldest 17. Two hundred youngsters study at what is considered the inner sanctum of the Kung Fu world. Their 26-year-old Master Shi, slight and freckled, is the 31st generation of Kung Fu masters in his family.

"If you're too old when you start Kung Fu, you never become good at it," said master Shi Xingli, 17.

He saluted visitors in hands-folded Buddhist fashion, part of the discipline expected of all Shaolin trainees.

The grand finale of their performance was when a young adept pushed his neck onto a spear while balancing a load of bricks on his back — just as another boy chopped the bricks in half with a great thwack, both emerged unscathed.



The owner of a chain of restaurants equally popular with tourists and Egyptians, Amina Zaghlul has based her success on hard work and a winning recipe.

able that a woman should monopolise the running of a family business to the exclusion of the men," she said. "These days, I never make a decision without having first discussed the matter at great length with my sons." All three have careers of their own: One has a diploma in tourism, another is an agricultural engineer and the third is a lawyer.

It may seem strange that such an energetic woman, one who has never once stopped working in a career spanning more than 30 years, is already planning her retirement. But the retirement Zaghlul has in mind is one with a difference. Her idea is to spend time in a tourist village that she is creating on the shores of the Red Sea.

"I'm in the process of creating a tourist village at *Urgada* (Ghardaqa) a place set between the sea and the

mountains," she said. "There will be a large hotel, 60 villas, several luxury units for VIP clients, a diving school, swimming pools, a hydrotherapy centre, restaurants, boutiques and all the rest. The buildings was interrupted by the Gulf war but we're hoping it will begin again soon. It is there, in *Urgada*, that I plan to spend my retirement, together with my husband. Once I've delegated responsibility for all my other activities."

"I'm also thinking about setting up several smaller companies and inviting private investors to take shares," she mused, as the setting sun over the Nile began glinting through the window of her busy restaurant. "And then again, I'm considering starting a franchise system... but that is still in the thinking stage" — World News Link.

## BOOK REVIEWS

### Poet's progress

A Mountainous Journey

By Fadwa Tuqan

The Women's Press, London 1990 £12.95

FADWA TUQAN, a Palestinian, is one of the best known poets in the Arab World. In this autobiography she describes the tremendously uphill journey that took her to self-fulfilment. There was first a stifling childhood in the harem of the house of her well-to-do family in Nablus. She was, besides, as unwanted child, the seventh in a brood of ten, and hurtfully ignored by her parents. A happy release into school was quickly ended when she was withdrawn in disgrace, aged thirteen, because a boy who had seen her at a distance sent her a flower.

Yet, strangely, the subsequent years of confinement determined her poetic bent. She found solace in reading and writing, and a much older brother, Ibrahim, who had already made his mark as a poet and critic, perceived her potential and put her through a prolonged course of reading and memorising classical Arabic poetry. Under his influence she began to write verse in classical form, only later breaking into the freer, more personal style that is prized today. She started to publish poetry regularly in 1952, at the age of 35, and was soon acclaimed. But it was not until nine years later that she had her first real taste of freedom through a visit to England. This was engineered by a much younger cousin studying at Oxford who found her a place in an English family nearby and helped her to enrol in two short university courses in English literature. She had already learned English from another brother, Nimir.

At an earlier date Fadwa's father, an ardent nationalist — twice deported by the British Mandatory Authorities — asked her to give her essentially lyrical verse a greater political content. She points out that she could hardly do so since she knew little of politics and was still debarred by rigid social conventions from meeting people from whom she could learn. She of course writes with anguish of the sufferings of Palestinians during the '30s and '40s — first from harsh British measures and then from the Zionists. But she had no strong political commitment until after the June 1967 war, when she became a major voice among resistance poets.

Among the good English translations in this book of some of her poems, those about Palestine may well not have been surpassed. "A Jordanian-Palestinian in England," written about 1961, captures the sadness of finding that even kind English friends then accepted the Israeli claim that Palestinians did not exist as a people. "The Deluge And The Tree," written soon after June 1967, pictures a scene of desolation, yet tinged with hope through the hauntingly repeated phrase "the birds will return." In "Song Of Becoming," written later in 1967, she muses on the future of boys who have only recently been larking about with kites and conjures up an astoundingly prophetic vision of the intifada.

Her remarkable autobiography, well translated by Olive Kenny, goes only as far as 1967. A second volume is promised that should tell the rest. For the present what we mainly know is that she has resolutely continued to live in Nablus — Middle East International.

By Sue Dearden

# Apple Computer

## expo 91

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## Care for the babies

By Blanche Addisasi

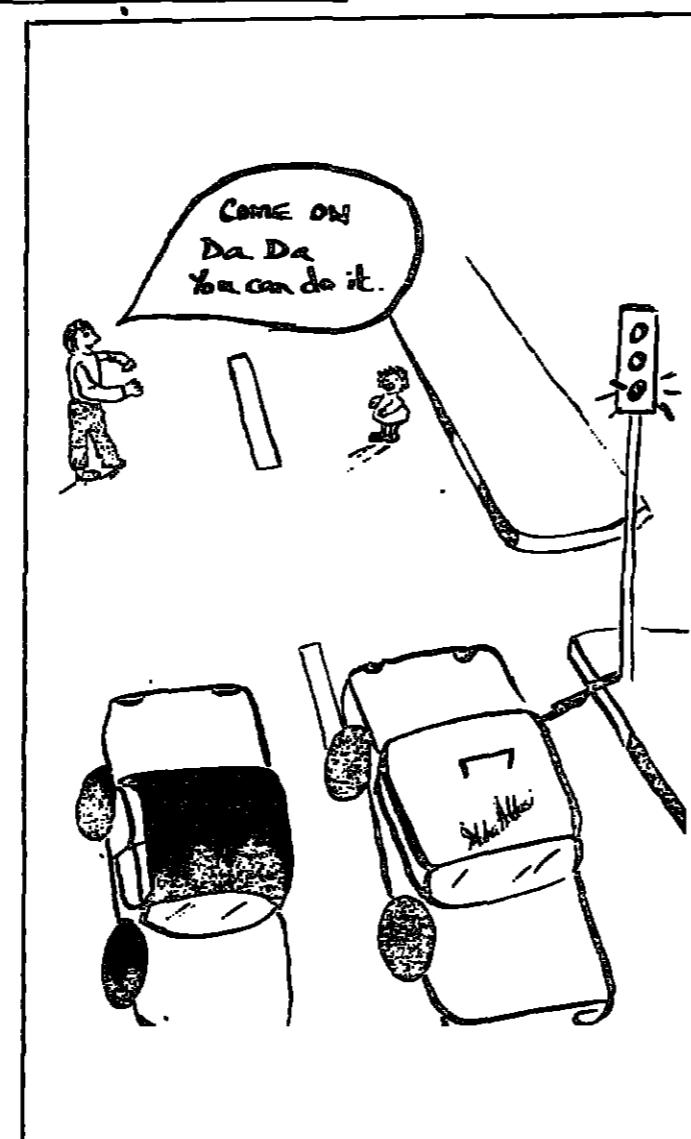
DO you love your children? Now, now. I do not want you to rush into answering this. Confer amongst yourselves you parents out there before coming out with that gem of an answer: "Of course we love our children, how could you even ask such a question?" Well, to tell you the truth, I believe some of you when you say you love your kids. But lurking out there is a species of parents who on family outings in a car put their little babies, not on the back seat strapped in a baby's seat, nor on the laps of their mothers' who are sitting in the front seat, nor in a baby's cot on the floor of the car, but right above the dashboard, lying down with their noses pressed flat against the windshields. Have you ever seen what happens to a packet of tissues when it is placed above the dashboard? By the end of the trip the packet of tissues looks like someone had played football with it, and because the box had fallen down some 783 times the tissue inside almost look used. Not that this statistic should discourage you concerned parents who put your darlings there. But if your kid grows up to be a demented child, I think you should know why. For a box of tissues it's gravity. For the rule, it's the parents' idiocy.

Now, assuming these babies survive all these trips and then the kids grow older, you find their parents driving along with no worries on their minds as their now two and three year old children swing half their bodies outside the car windows with their hair flying as they squint their eyes in the sun.

Whereas if parents love them they will have a very hard time to find idiotic people of that.

Another reason that seems appropriate to mention here is the place of place for teaching a toddler to walk.

The normal thing to do is let your child take his or her first steps in a room where the worst thing that can happen to them is to fall and land on a carpeted floor. But I have witnessed some parents in the act of teaching their kids to walk, leave a child sleep, with one parent sending the kid off down one side of the street and the other parent following him or her off the end. Even if the side street is paved with cobble stones, I do not know about you, but I



categorise this act as murder in the first degree. Or it could be a trap. This is because if anyone as much as comes near their child with a car the parents would sue that driver so fast his head would spin, because that driver apparently jeopardised the life of their "beloved child." For once I am left speechless. I have no suggestions, or comments. And I rest my case.

## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

many's military future to NATO allies.

Friday, June 7

1492 — Spain and Portugal, by Treaty of Tordesillas, agree to divide the new world between themselves.

1546 — Peace of Ardres ends England's war with France and Scotland.

1547 — England declares war on France as an ally of Spain, and Scots invade England.

1672 — Dutch defeat combined British and French fleet in Southwold Bay, England.

1762 — Britain and United States sign treaty for suppression of slave trade.

1806 — Prussian troops march into Holstein.

1808 — Norwegian Storting decides on separation from Sweden.

1849 — Organised resistance against German invaders ends in Norway in World War II.

1942 — Battle of Midway in Pacific ends in major U.S. victory over Japanese in World War II.

1957 — Israeli forces driving into Egypt reach banks of Suez Canal.

1970 — Voters in Switzerland reject proposal to force almost one-third of a million aliens to leave that country.

1975 — United States withdraws its last combat aircraft based on Nationalist Chinese island of Taiwan.

1977 — Senior Communist Party and government officials in Czechoslovakia are implicated in major corruption trial.

1988 — First contingent of Indian troops sent to Sri Lanka 10 months previously to enforce peace accord is withdrawn.

1989 — Foreign embassies rush to get their nationals out of Peking, with much of China appearing on verge of chaos.

1990 — U.S. House of Representatives voted to bar the sale of computers and telecommunications gear to Soviet Union until Moscow begins negotiations on Lithuania's independence.

Saturday, June 8

1663 — British and Portu-

guese defeat Spaniards at Almagro.

1883 — France, by convention of Marsa with Bey of Tunis, gains effective control of Tunisia.

1915 — Allied forces take Neuville in France from Germans in World War I.

1925 — Britain and France accept in principle Germany's proposals for security pact to guarantee Franco-German and Belgo-German boundaries.

1942 — Japanese submarines shell Sydney, Australia, in World War II.

1961 — U.S. troops in Vietnam are authorised to engage in offensive operations.

1973 — Spain's Generalissimo Francisco Franco relinquishes some of his power by naming Admiral Luis Carrero Blanco as premier.

1976 — Large force of Syrian troops moves into Lebanon, where civil war rages.

1987 — Seven civilians die in clash between grenade-throwing Tamil rebels and police commandos on main street of Batticaloa in Sri Lanka.

1988 — Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze tells United Nations that Moscow would observe permanent moratorium on nuclear testing if United States also agrees.

1989 — South Africa's President P. W. Botha appears intent on extending state of emergency for fourth year although black unrest has subsided.

1990 — Czechoslovakia holds its first free elections in 44 years; Vaclav Havel is elected president.

Sunday, June 9

68 — Roman Emperor Nero commits suicide.

1572 — Turkish fleet puts to sea against Don John of Austria to complete capture of Cyprus.

1752 — French forces at Trichinopoly in India surrender to British.

1827 — Turkey rejects allied note for truce with Greece.

1896 — Russo-Japanese agreement recognises Russia's position in Korea.

1915 — Severe riots break out in Moscow.

1916 — Sherif Hussein Ibn Ali of Mecca revolts against Turkey.

1940 — Norway's army surrenders to Nazis in World War II.

1961 — United Nations calls on Portugal to cease repressive measures in Angola.

1967 — Jamal Abdul Nasser resigns as president of Egypt after his country is defeated in war with Israel.

1972 — U.S. planes raid perimeters of Hanoi and Haiphong in most concentrated bombing of North Vietnam's military heartland in more than four years.

1975 — Philippines establishes diplomatic relations with China, breaking its ties with Nationalist Chinese government in Taiwan.

1984 — Heavy damage and casualties are reported as Iran and Iraq trade air attacks on residential areas across their 1,180-kilometre border.

1989 — Two bombs blow up seconds apart on main seaside boulevard in Syrian-controlled west Beirut, killing three people and wounding four others.

1990 — The Liberian government and rebels agreed to attend peace talks.

Monday, June 10

1891 — L. Starr Jameson becomes administrator of South Africa Company's areas.

1898 — U.S. Marines invade Cuba in Spanish-American war.

1903 — King Alexander I and Queen Draga of Serbia are murdered.

1907 — Japan and France agree to preserve "open door" in China.

1917 — Sinn Fein riots break out in Dublin, Ireland.

1942 — German Gestapo kills male residents of Lidice, Czechoslovakia, in retaliation for assassination of a German official.

1967 — Israel agrees to United Nations ceasefire with Egypt.

1971 — United States lifts 21-year-old embargo on trade with China.

By The Associated Press

## A story about Nothing

By E. Yaghi

Mr. Nothing sat forsaken by the roadside in his ragged clothes, eating goober peas. In a loud voice to no one, he said, "isn't this delicious, eating goober peas?"

A car sped past churning up a cloud of dust which settled on Mr. Nothing. He choked a bit, maybe on his goober peas or maybe on the dirt lodged in his windpipe but he ignored the occurrence. His face was as bland as baby food. He was Mr. Nothing so he would never make much ado about anything. His eyes stared blankly into nothing and nothing was on his mind. His brain was addled, his pocket bare and he had no profession. He was an all round nothing person, hence the name.

But at one time, Mr. Nothing had been a someone, had had a profession and possessed an enthusiastic mind. In some circles, he was almost known as clever and even kind of sophisticated, but one cloudy day, he fell down off his pedestal and cracked his head.

A few considerate passersby tried to put Mr. Nothing back together again like a jigsaw puzzle, but no matter how they struggled to fit the pieces, they came up with nothing. "Oh, the poor man!" one said. "We can't seem to make heads or tails out of him. Looks as if he'll be distorted for life. Wonder what he looked like before he fell?"

Another, feigning to be an authority about nothingness, said, "Well, he was nothing much to look at anyway, so no great loss. However, he used to wear a smile on his face and chase after invisible butterflies and speak incoherent phrases about reaching unreachable stars and dreaming impossible, dreams and lighting fires on the moon. But look at him now! Doesn't seem like he'll be doing much searching from now on!"

He then slapped his friend on the back and both strangers walked away laughing. Mr. Nothing didn't laugh. He didn't cry either. He simply had no feeling and sat looking stupid, doing nothing.

Thus his existence began as a numb human thing. Once quite particular how he dressed and with a sizeable portion of his allowance dedicated to his wardrobe, he played the grand game. But that was long ago when he could think. He had lived on an estate like a nobleman. Now he had no job, no money, no luck, no sense. He lived in a tent made of old newspapers. Because he didn't have a door, the wind flapped about his hovel, ripping at its walls and tearing down some of the structure. But Mr. Nothing felt nothing

so he was oblivious to the howling winds, the black nights with no stars and the desert cold that seeped under his skin, giving him goose bumps and turning him purple.

When Mr. Nothing wasn't eating goober peas, he was begging for money. To some it seemed they could spy a tear in his eye when he stretched out his tin cup waiting for the plump plunk of a coin or two. Yet, it was known that Mr. Nothing had no feelings anyway, so that tear must be from rough winds that lashed at his face and eyes and ruffled his hair and rent his battered clothes.

Somewhat Mr. Nothing grew a beard. With the passage of time and because of his fall, few recognised him for the somebody he once had been. He was known by most to be simply what he had become nothing. Every once in a while, even Mr. Nothing got bored. So he counted fleas on sheep or feathers on peacocks or pebbles on beaches. But he could only count so far so then he'd have to begin at one and work his way up to cipher as this was what was on his mind anyway. At other times, he would scribble senseless forms in the dirt with a twig. A child could have done better.

Mr. Nothing was where he should be. It just wouldn't do to think he belonged with intelligent someones, who thought about relevant concerns such as the latest streaked hair styles of Persian lambs or crazy clown clothes or hot greasy gossip. Some witty people could be so apropos. Mr. Nothing was definitely not in their league. No, No, No! These subjects were much too sophisticated for Mr. Nothing. He was only fit to not think, have no opinions, hopes, dreams, ideas or to possess qualities known in some places as duty, faithfulness and complete dedication. Even when he was a somebody, he used to speak in riddles. Few had understood him then. None understand him now.

If you care to see a nobody called Mr. Nothing, who lives in an empty tent made of old newspapers under the starless black night in the desert cold, then just go where your dreams are and you'll find him in your heart, doing, speaking, hearing and thinking nothing. After all, isn't that what he's supposed to do and isn't this what life is all about — nothing? Perhaps if Mr. Nothing remains blank and bland as baby food, he might be forgiven for something. But ah, Mr. Nothing, they were not listening then, they're not listening still, perhaps they never will.

Meanwhile, Mr. Nothing sits by the roadside, eating goober peas, suffering amnesia, knowing it's no use to carry on, when all he had been living for is gone.

## JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, June 6

8:30 Day By Day

My World And Welcome To It

It would seem that doing a good job is not exactly like loving the job itself.

9:10 Deadly Intentions

When Catherine marries Charles, she thinks she is in for an ordinary cozy marriage life. She is wrong.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Movie Of The Week

Ordinary People

Starring Donald Sutherland and Mary Moore

The story of an ordinary family and what would happen to the inner relations of the family when something goes wrong.

Friday, June 7

8:30 Night Court

Daddy For The Defence

Christine is the newly appointed lawyer to court, and her daddy wants the whole world to know it.

9:10 Shakespeare

10:00 News in English

10:20 In The Heat Of The Night

The Hammer And The Glove

A murder is committed in town that involves FBI agents.

Sunday, June 9

8:30 Yes Minister

The Official Visit

The head of an African state plans to visit Britain, but he is removed from power just before the visit.

9:10 One World

The Earth In Balance

A Personal View Of The Environment

Environmental hazards, such as water pollution, acid rain and the likes, are all

man-made, and man must come to grips with this fact before he sets out to solve them.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Paradise

A House Divided

Villains take Miss Lawson and the kids as hostages, and make out a list of tough demands from townspeople. Ethan decides to stop them from running away.

Monday, June 10

8:30 Empty Nest

It would seem that old doctors never fade away. Dr. West seems to believe so, and defends this view.

9:10 Nancy Wake

While Henry suffers in prison, his wife trains with the British special forces. Meanwhile cooperation between the French Resistance and the British is marred by a clash of dignity.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Murder In Texas

Starring: Farrah Fawcett

Texas 1968: Dr. John Hill is married to the daughter of an influential rich man Ash Robinson. On the surface, it looks like a happy marriage, beneath the surface; it isn't. The father and the daughter want to preserve the marriage, but he doesn't.

Tuesday, June 11

10:00 News in English

10:20 Not A Penny More, Not A Penny Less

Finally the Conman's victims decide to get together and conceive a plan to get even with him.





# Study looks at ways to recycle medical waste

By Maura Griffin

The Associated Press

**MONTPELIER, Vermont** — The life saving business of a hospital operating room generates lots of paper and plastic waste. Now a recycling experiment said to be a first is seeking ways to restore life to that surgical trash.

"Most people think it's bloody, messy stuff. It's not," says Hollie Shaner, a recovery room nurse at the Medical Centre Hospital of Vermont. "Much of it is similar to hotel waste."

The hospital's surgical wing is the site this month of a study in separating surgical trash as a prelude to finding ways to use it again rather than dump it in crowded landfills.

Connie Leach, an independent recycling consultant, said the effort — called Medcycle and funded by an \$11,000 grant from the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources — represents the first surgical recycling programme in the country.

Already, she said, the hospital emergency room has been able to cut by 75 to 80 per cent the amount of stuff it used to throw out.

During the first 15 days of the study, more than a ton of garbage was diverted from the dump for potential reuse.

"I hope to make this a model for hospitals across the country," Leach said. "They can learn there is a way to control this type of waste."

Shaner said separating hazardous, infectious waste from reusable trash was no problem because it was already being separated for safe disposal.

"Recyclers think AIDS

and hepatitis and the New Jersey Beach when they think of medical waste," she said. "Most of it's just plain old garbage."

More than half of what gets thrown out in the operating room is packaging material.

All instruments, gauze and liquid used in surgery must be sterile. The materials come hermetically sealed — double and even triple-packaged in some instances. Under the Medcycle programme the various kinds of packaging are identified and sorted.

The bulk of this is "blue wrap," a fabric made of paper and plastic weave used to cover sterilised surgical instruments, stainless steel bowls and all other items used in surgery.

Leach covers her garden with it to protect her plants.

Other waste includes rigid plastic trays, film, white virgin boxboard, solution bottles and aluminum products.

Leach is sending samples of that kind of trash to recyclers to find a potential market. She says many of the plastic products could be recycled into planters, garbage cans and lawn furniture.

Before the recycling effort began, Shaner and Leach anticipated that hospital workers could fill about 50 bags a day with recyclable materials. More than twice that number are being filled.

Now, the two hope to publish the results of their work in medical and solid waste journals.

"We want to show here's how to catch the stuff and here's what to do with it," Shaner said. "And we want to demonstrate to recyclers that medical waste is not all dangerous or a public hazard."

By Nancy Benac  
The Associated Press

**WASHINGTON** — The government should require stronger warnings that the schizophrenia drug Clozapine may cause patients to stop breathing when they first start treatment, a consumer group and a team of psychiatrists said.

The consumer group Public Citizen, in a petition to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) asked that the drug's manufacturer be required to put a prominent boxed warning on the label about the potentially fatal reaction.

It also asked that the company, Sandoz Pharmaceuticals Corp. of East Hanover, New Jersey, be required to send a warning letter to all psychiatrists.

"A simple, direct, explicit warning could save a life," said Dr. Ida Hellander of Public Citizen's Health Research Group.

Joining Public Citizen in the petition was a group of 18 psychiatrists and other medical personnel at Dorothea Dix Hospital in Raleigh, North Carolina. In March, a patient at the hospital had to be revived when she stopped breathing 1 1/2 hours after her first dose of

the drug.

Public Citizen, founded by activist Ralph Nader, said problems with respiratory arrest had been reported by researchers in Germany, where the drug has been on the market for a decade.

Public Citizen said respiratory arrest was most likely to occur in patients who also were taking anti-anxiety drugs known as benzodiazepines, which include medications such as Valium, Halcion, Ativan and xanax.

It said stronger warnings were needed because a substantial percentage of Clozapine patients also take benzodiazepines, and half of

them may not be hospitalised when they start taking the drug.

Sandoz spokesman Bill O'Donnell said the company has revised Clozapine's packaging twice this year to draw attention to the potential for respiratory arrest and is drafting a letter to doctors addressing the issue.

"As standard practice, Sandoz has been working with the FDA to increase physician awareness to any and all adverse reactions," he said.

Public Citizen and the North Carolina doctors said the revised Sandoz labels were "grossly inadequate" to

alert physicians to the potential problem with Clozapine.

Dr. Leonard J. Friedman, the psychiatrist who treated the woman in North Carolina, said the boxed warning should state that patients should be off all benzodiazepines for one week before starting Clozapine, and should be monitored for several hours after receiving their first dose.

The anti-psychotic drug, sold under the brand name Clozaril, is currently being taken by 11,000 people, but company officials say 60,000 to 30,000 Americans are potential candidates for the medication.

Usage could increase now that the federal government has told states that cover prescription drugs under Medicaid that they have to pay for Clozapine and an accompanying blood monitoring system. The treatment costs thousands of dollars a year.

Schizophrenia is a mental disorder that can be characterised by a distortion of reality, delusions, hallucinations, a fragmentation of the personality and bizarre behavior.

The drug was approved by the FDA in 1989.

FDA spokeswoman Eva Kemper said the agency had not reviewed the petition.

**idiocy. In trisomy cases the gene responsible for the output of the precursor protein occurs three times (and not just twice) as frequently as usual.**

Down's patients aged between 20 and 30 are found to have quantities of amyloid in their brain on a par with the amount that accumulates among otherwise healthy individuals between 70 and 80.

The fact that Alzheimer's occurs among high-risk groups who seem destined to die of Alzheimer's would die of other causes before reaching the age at which dementia was likely to affect them.

No-one yet knows exactly how Alzheimer's originates, but there are strong indications that Professor Beyreuther is right in assuming that any amyloid precursor breaks up during cell repair work, leaving amyloid to accumulate.

There are families in which Alzheimer's frequently occurs and takes its course so fast that most patients die at the age of 55.

A hereditary factor, a gene, was recently identified among patients in this category that is felt to be to blame for the faulty disintegration of this precursor protein.

There is another congenital complaint, trisomy, 21, which leads to Down's syndrome, a form of mongoloid

The reason why Down's syndrome patients are affected so much sooner by Alzheimer's is felt to be that their three, as opposed to two, amyloid precursor protein genes are more active, making faulty repair jobs likelier.

So the signs are that this precursor protein holds the key to Alzheimer's. It is an indispensable protein whose cells need to mend minor damage to cell membranes.

If errors that occur during this repair work are to blame for the protein disintegrating into amyloid, the approach to treatment can only be to protect the brain cells and to spare them repair work wherever possible — Frankfurter Rundschau.

# Microbiologist: Alzheimer's may be kept at bay if diagnosed sooner

By Dieter Dietrich

**CATASTROPHE** strikes overnight, as it were, when a previously healthy person can suddenly no longer find his way home, no longer knows where the toilet is and totally fails to recognise his — or her — nearest and dearest.

These are typical symptoms of Alzheimer's disease, a form of senile dementia that strikes in old age but dates back to imperceptible changes the patient underwent 30 years earlier.

Heidelberg microbiologist Konrad Beyreuther, an internationally renowned Alzheimer's specialist who recently won a U.S.-research award worth nearly DM400,000, sees this lengthy incubation period as a possible means of coping with the complaint.

He feels the progress of Alzheimer's, which has so far been rated an incurable disease, might be brought to a halt or its outbreak postponed to over 90, an age at which it will affect a limited number of people.

Professor Beyreuther told a seminar held by Bayer Pharmaceuticals at Mayschoss, near Bonn, he had found

signs that the symptoms which trigger Alzheimer's start with sporadic errors in the repair of nerve cells in the brain.

These errors gradually spread, in a kind of chain reaction, to more and more parts of the brain, creating a proteinous garbage by-product known as amyloid.

Amyloid accumulates in and between the nerve cells of brain, coagulates and increasingly blocks their activity. Individual brain cells gradually die as a result.

After 30 years masses of cells have died, leaving corresponding quantities of garbage in the brain, which is suddenly no longer able to reroute activity to other, undamaged areas.

Latent Alzheimer's becomes virulent and the patient increasingly reverts to the status of an infant. His personality disintegrates. In the

extreme cases of death. The number of patients awaiting death in this way is currently estimated at 800,000 in Germany alone.

With old people set to make up a steadily larger share of the population, the number of Alzheimer's patients is expected to quadruple over the next 40 years unless a cure is found or treatment improves.

So by the year 2030 there would be over three million in Germany, mainly old people.

Calcium antagonists, for instance, could be taken to slow down the activity of the brain cells and reduce the frequency of faulty repairs.

Anti-oxidents such as vitamin E, pro-vitamin A and selenium could help to prevent the destruction of nerve cells and reduce the need for cell repairs.

If medication of this kind were to succeed in halving the amyloid accumulation rate and the mass death of

nerve cells in the brain, today's 50-year-old need not fear Alzheimer's before the age of 95, as opposed to 80 at present.

If that were possible, most patients in high-risk groups who seem destined to die of Alzheimer's would die of other causes before reaching the age at which dementia was likely to affect them.

They would indicate the extent of amyloid build-up in the brain, allowing inferences to be drawn as to the progress of the disease.

If it is identified in its early stages, he feels, drugs might be developed to slow down the further progress of the chain reaction and maybe bring it to a halt.

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If medication of this kind were to succeed in halving the amyloid accumulation rate and the mass death of

# Row over welfare state latest threat to 'uncaring' Major

By Nicholas Moore

Reuter

**LONDON** — Britain's reformist Conservative government has stirred up an electoral hornets' nest with a plan to revamp the hallowed welfare state.

Better-off Britons often take up U.S.-style private health insurance, just as they send sons and daughters to "public" schools, which in Britain means fee-paying, private and elite.

And for a growing number, private health insurance comes with the job — a "perk" provided by their employer.

But a majority holds dear to its heart the free care by doctors and hospitals provided since World War II by the state's taxation-financed National Health Service.

Such is the passion it arouses that a row over Conservative measures of reform has produced some of the worst parliamentary language heard in British politics for months.

Prime Minister John Major, in a rare show of fury, accused his Labour opponents of lying. Labour leader Neil Kinnock retorted that the conservatives were "pompous whingers."

"The expense of the scheme to the exchequer was consequently much more than had been anticipated..."

Pelling says the facilities "often remained inadequate but they were widely appreciated by the public."

Kinnock, campaigning for a general election which Major must call by June 1992, promises to levy higher taxes on the rich so as to spend more money on health care.

His party infuriates the Conservatives by saying that their reforms aimed at cutting costs in the health bureaucracy, will in reality jeopardise

patients.

The dispute mirrors a debate in many advanced industrial democracies: how to finance subsidised care in an era when people live longer and new drugs and surgical techniques are increasingly expensive?

It is a conundrum as old as the pioneering British National Health Service itself.

This was introduced in 1946 by Aneurin Bevan, a left-wing firebrand and Labour government health minister whose system has endured as the basis of Britain's State Medical Care.

Bevan provided free treatment for everyone, from cradle to grave. Hospitals were state-funded. Family doctors were paid a fee by the state for each patient on their books.

The new service led to extraordinary public demand, says historian Henry Pelling in his book "Modern Britain."

"The expense of the scheme to the exchequer was consequently much more than had been anticipated..."

Pelling says the facilities "often remained inadequate but they were widely appreciated by the public."

Many doctors, back in 1946, opposed Bevan's new National Health Service, fearing it threatened their professional freedom.

In the 1980s, however, Margaret Thatcher's premiership brought an abrasive new right-wing approach in charting Conservative policies.

And although a rebellion by Conservative backbench

would go, Labour charges, in a step towards a U.S.-style system in which being ill can bring financial ruin.

This allows hospitals, while remaining in the National Health Service, to become "Trust Hospitals" and opt out of its financing system.

Those which decide to do this manage their own budgets as state trusts.

Family doctors may also take part. They still get state funds for each patient but can buy hospital care for those who need it at whatever hospital seems to offer the best deal.

The Conservatives say this hybrid — an evolving free market within a state service — will in time prove more efficient.

Hospitals will adopt competitive management techniques, fire surplus workers and devote more funds to medicine, the Conservatives say.

Labour with backing from trade unionised health workers, its traditional supporters, and also by many doctors in the British Medical Association, a professional body, disagrees.

Many doctors, back in 1946, opposed Bevan's new National Health Service, fearing it threatened their professional freedom.

The fear now is that Conservative cost-cutting will create two-tier public health that would offer privileges for patients of doctors who play the new system.

The principle of care according to clinical need

Last Week's Cryptogram

1. Jolly young cook, struggling to find non-fatty foods to serve, happily decided to join a pickle everything.  
2. Plush pedestal can no longer be fashioned for our brisk working women in the marketplace.  
3. Hardly catch a handmaiden any more; they prosper in specialities.  
4. Florist fashions his best beautiful bouquet for banquet.

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. E M H A C W L S M L Z M B A X I E B W E H V D V D  
Z H K P X W . D A I S K E D J X S R V C D W C M  
O D A V M A J X P M A O D W J .  
—By Earl Ireland

2. F T O C I B I O X T V B A Z M N S R Y C M N O I X T  
O Q X O G A Z T V Z M N I Z R . E T O C E T I E ' Z F T I E I  
W B S S N V Z W S N .  
—By Gordon Miller

3. Q Z Q T S F D M O M E G Q Z N O T D R U G O  
U D H S E Q H G R Z D M G L R D N R O T O U F O U L  
T O E G T H O R .  
—By Ed Huddleson

4. W A A Y U K M H G R U L S Y S U C H Y U M E R O C T  
G R O W S U L A R K T E A M .  
—By Barbara J. Rugg

SOLUTIONS OF  
LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE

1. JOLLY COOK  
2. PLUSH PEDESTAL  
3. HARDY CATCH  
4. FLORIST

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. E M H A C W L S M L

# Features

JORDAN TIMES, THURSDAY-FRIDAY, JUNE 6-7, 1991



## Abdul Jabbar Salman — from sand to infinity

By Adil Kamil

The following article is reprinted from the *Baghdad Observer*

THE pioneers' generation of painters has left a strong impact on the contemporary art movement in Iraq. With their return from studies and training in Paris, Rome and London, the art movement gained a new momentum. These artists were very active in planting the first seeds of modern art in Iraq.

The most important thing about the pioneers is that most of them became lecturers at the Fine Arts Academy and Fine Arts Institute.

Their distinguished role lies in motivating new groups of art lovers and enthusiasts, who in turn continued a leading role towards establishing a contemporary art movement in Iraq.

Among those artists was Abdul Jabbar Salman who was mostly influenced by Fa'iq Hassan and Isma'il Al Shukli, two veteran painters. Salman, a realist, was most influenced by environment and surroundings.

His paintings reflected a special sensitivity towards colours which almost reach the degree of transparency.

Salman justifies his being a realist by saying that realism provides "a basis for the future." It is like the importance of mastering language by writers and poets. So he spent the early beginning of his career depicting rural life, paying a special attention to the daily life of the farmers.

Until the early 1970s, Salman was known as a multifarious painter who showed no interest in depicting still life, but instead kept penetrating beyond objects, giving them the force of life itself.

Though his early paintings were almost documentary in nature, he later tended to deal with a new theme, the desert with all its features that differed from his familiar theme.

In this regard, Salman said that he "loved the space, the mystery of the sand, and those people — the bedouins — who live in the open air, away from cities."

The desert became his main concern and his favourite topic. When he went to Saudi Arabia, Salman was preoccupied with the sand, to the point of obsession as he was with the sun and ultimate space.

This preoccupation with the desert reflects a total rejection of modern European trends which dominated works of many painters and sculptors. Salman opted

not to imitate the European schools, in defiance of their great impact on the contemporary Iraqi art movement in particular, and on the Arab art movement in general. Abdul Jabbar Salman has also succeeded in establishing his own style and artistic vision away from the extremist trends in art.

Salman never tried surrealism or cubism, but he continued to paint what he actually saw on the one hand and reflected his originality and his own vision on the other. In both cases, the theme of the desert had stimulated him to study the colour of the sun and sand and their effects on the life of people.

Salman is a painter of the environment who does not care much for extremist trends and limited individual topics. He finds an argumentative interaction between what is subjective and what is objective. The world of the desert with all its mystery, coarse nature and immemorial history has attracted him. He has responded to this vast world which we rarely notice in the modern European trends.

Abdul Jabbar Salman is also a lover of open air and natural surroundings. In addition to that, his paintings are derived from reality and from the hidden memories of the new inhabitants of the cities.

Though he started with realism, he slowly and quietly developed his style to establish a highly individual style. In this way, he reminds us of Khalid Al Jadir's experience, a magic experience with all its colours derived from Iraqi environment.

Salman did not give up the colour of the sun, the smell of the clay and the warmth of sand. With the passage of time — and along with the experience of more than 25 years — these symbols were developed into an artistic concept, peculiar to the artist and reflected in his sensitivity, which in his words evokes the depth of his vision.

The sensitivity seems as if taken from the concept of the desert, which has made him adopt a new style close to abstraction.

The artist's output shows his artistic development and his originality in choosing topics to paint and his attempts to give his local experience an international dimension. Starting with the sand, he leads his viewers to a mysterious world, vast, open and boundless. His world probably ponders the human psyche, which knows no limits.

**AP reporter Mark Fritz and Kuwaiti translator Salih Zamani were arrested by Iraqi police May 12 at the Iraq-Kuwait border. They were taken to Baghdad, freed and escorted to the Jordanian border on a five-day, 1,120-kilometres journey through a nation reeling from war. Here is an account of the trip**

**ALONG THE BAGHDAD HIGHWAY** — To travel from one end of Iraq to the other is to see a wounded army struggling to its feet and an omnipresent police force on constant watch.

It is to see vehicles creeping past huge holes in sagging bridges, filthy children hawking American cigarettes on wind-blown roads, masses of black-robed women waiting for rations in battered cities.

It is to see new paint splashed over old anti-government graffiti, slow repairs on blasted buildings and hundreds of punched-out poster frames being refitted with pictures of Saddam Hussein.

Most of all, it is to see men in uniform guarding checkpoints, examining passports, fixing tanks.

The Baghdad highway that crosses this enigmatic nation begins at the Iraq-Kuwait border, recently vacated by U.S. troops, and runs north to Basra, which was briefly held by Shi'ite Muslims.

It swings west to Baghdad, where cab drivers point out bombed buildings as if they were landmarks, then slices through the desert to the Jordanian border. On the highway, trucks again carry food to a nation reeling from war and revolt.

The border town of Safwan, at Iraq's back door, is like a well-

worn mat crossed by Iraqi troops invading Kuwait. U.S. forces driving them back and thousands of refugees fleeing the Shi'ite revolt.

Two weeks ago, American troops vacated a zone that included Safwan and U.N. observers were deployed in their place.

On May 11, Iraqi police, most sent from Baghdad, returned to establish civil authority. They were greeted with organised fanfare. Children sang and waved flags. Anti-Saddam slogans were painted over with new ones.

"Death to the traitors of Iraq," and "Saddam is the pride of loyal Iraq" are among the sayings now scrawled on sun-bleached stone buildings.

Electricity and mail delivery still have not been restored, but no one complains.

"The forces of Saddam are back in charge and everything is excellent," said Saad Turki, 22, a tomato farmer.

"I hope he dies," the cop said.

"We took legal charges against them," he said, but would not elaborate.

Bombed-out tanks and trucks litter the 25-mile stretch of road from Safwan to Basra. Trucks tow damaged tanks to a huge repair yard just south of the city.

The Iraqi army, once in disarray, is again organised and alert. Troops and armour are deployed in formation along the highway, just 30 minutes from Kuwait.

Basra bears deep scars from the Shi'ite uprising that spread through southern Iraqi cities after the war. The city hall is gutted.

Only the frame remains from a two-story portrait of Saddam that once adorned the building.

Authorities blame the rebels for damage to buildings and utilities. Independent reports say the army wrecked the towns while crushing the rebellions.

Iraqi police say many rebels were Iranians organised and armed by Iran, whose frontier is 15 miles from Basra.

But driver Yousef Ganas, 49, says he saw an Iranian helicopter pick up rebels outside the southern city of Nasiriyah.

A night spent in Basra was quiet. Electricity was cut off several times.

"The town is 100 per cent under control," a police official said.

"How is George Bush doing?" He asked a reporter, who replied that the U.S. president was doing fine after treatment for an irregular heartbeat.

"I hope he dies," the cop said.

Allied jets bombed bridges along the Baghdad highway. Many are punctured or dip like roller-coaster tracks.

Between Baghdad and Basra, half the twin span crossing the confluence of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers has collapsed. A pontoon bridge has been built for westbound traffic.

Farther west, Amarah bears the same scars of rebellion as Basra. Public buildings are in ruins.

In villages, crowds of women robed in black gather at giant tanks where soldiers distribute fresh water.

Innumerable peddlers, many of them children, line the highway and city streets, hawking American cigarettes, Granola bars, Ira-

anian pistachios and other smuggled goods.

Youngsters spread their wares on cardboard boxes set up on roadsides and sidewalks. One grimy little boy sat forlornly, offering matchbooks for a few pennies each.

Women seem to do most of the physical labour, tilling fields, leading pack mules, balancing baskets of dates or grain on their heads. Most men are in uniform.

Policemen and soldiers hold privileged positions in Iraq. The right identity card gets a quick, reverential wave through checkpoints and at the front of long gas lines.

Many policemen drive late-model cars and trucks with Kuwaiti plates. In the subterranean command centre of the Baghdad police department, young officers lounge, joke and drink tea for hours.

One day, an officer trooped a large man into his supervisor's office and said the prisoner was found with the identity card of a high-ranking soldier.

The man's wrists were bound behind his back with tape. His face was a portrait of terror. The much smaller police officer, clutching a thick elastic cord, hustled him back into the dim corridor.

Light cracks and hysterical cries echoed off the grimy walls.

"No, please. Let me talk to

someone so I can explain." The man screamed. He was dragged a bit, beaten, pulled down the corridor, beaten, until 15 minutes of anguished cries faded away.

The other officers were nonchalant. Nobody cocked an ear, traded a glance or looked up from his paperwork.

The stretch of highway from Baghdad to Jordan is one of the most forsaken places in Iraq. Sandstorms blot the sun with a blinding, azure fog of talcum-like dust.

Even here, portraits of Saddam abound, dressed in blue suit and white tie, army green, Arab headdress — grinning, glaring, gazing.

A secret-police officer assigned to escort a reporter and interpreter out of Iraq tried to convince them of Saddam's greatness.

"I think Saddam is very strong," he said. "Thirteen countries must go against him. America, Britain, U.H., Luxembourg..."

He pondered a fourth finger and gazed off, trying to remember more.

Trailing their truck was a taxi hired to drive the officer back to Baghdad. The elderly driver said his 18-year-old daughter died while sleeping in the Baghdad bunker bombed by allied planes.

He said his son was a soldier in the Iran-Iraq war and was listed as missing. He expressed no bit-

terness or anger, only sorrow.

A tiny military post 200 mi west of Baghdad, in the heart of the desert that dominates western Iraq, was far from Kuwait's regions where the heaviest fighting occurred.

Nonetheless, a giant radio tower had been destroyed. An officer said it was blown up by a k

men were killed.

"Did you kill any of them?" The secret-police officer asked eagerly.

"No," the soldier said.

"Did you wound any of them?"

The policeman asked.

"No," the soldier said.

The soldier had his mech-

anical look at the reporter's stalk truck. Poor Iraqi gasoline had gummed the fuel filter and caused

the Baghdad highway.

Scores of stores sell smuggled goods, including processed pa-

tries from hated Saudi Arabia

## Despots preach democracy to Sudan

By Abdul Bari Atwan  
From *Al Quds Al Arabi*, London

NOBODY disputes the fact that General Omar Hassan Al Bashir and his comrades in the "revolution of salvation" seized power in a military coup which put an end to a period of many years.

Neither can they dispute that Jaafar Numeiri came to power in the same way, or that he consolidated his rule over the years with blood. So Numeiri is hardly in a position to question the legitimacy of the present Sudanese regime or that of any other country, to criticise the recent amnesties, or to tell Bashir that he is not empowered to issue them. Numeiri's own history is replete with the granting and withdrawal of such amnesties. Moreover, he has the distinction of being the only modern Sudanese leader to have been swept from power by a mass popular revolution.

He is also the last person on earth entitled to criticise the implementation of Sharia laws,

for it was in his glorious reign that they were first introduced — including the amputation of thieves' limbs and the whipping of alcohol drinkers. And he was the first Sudanese military ruler to form a coalition with fundamentalist groups.

*Sudan today is suffocated by economic problems and crises. But they were not caused primarily either by the present regime or the democratic government that preceded it.*

In the main they date from the corruption of the Numeiri years. As he switched between the ideologies of the far left and extreme right, Sudan's resources turned into investments and companies based in London, Paris and Geneva.

I confess that I was horrified to see the miserable condition of Khartoum as I walked through its dusty, pot-holed streets. The rutted roads and dilapidated bridges looked as though they had not been maintained since the day they were built by the British. This was not the fault of the governments of the past four years, but the accumulation of many previous years of neglect.

The same can be said for Sudan's debts built up over the years when Numeiri and his group reigned. None of that bunch are even in jail now, although had this been another Arab country, it is doubtful any of them would still be alive.

We may differ with the Sudanese regime or agree with it. That is not the point.

The issue is how dignity

restored to its people, and the wheels of production set in motion again so it can feed itself before progression to its much-touted status as "bread-bunker of the Arab World."

"Sudan needs democracy, yes. But we must also keep in mind that democracy cannot be brought about by an alliance of undemocratic elements, or by tribal rulers who exploited the democratic period to make quick profits, milk the people dry, sell off donated oil cargoes or trade in the food shipments sent to the hungry.

We must also always remember that the states and regimes which most enthusiastically welcomed Bashir's take-over of power had besieged the democratic government and spared its effort to ensure it failed. One recalls the sad sight of Sadiq Al Mahdi travelling to the Gulf capitals, literally pleading for help in confronting famine and rebellion just weeks before Bashir's coup. His appeals were met with indifference, largely because he sought to maintain normal relations with Iran which at the time was considered an enemy by the Gulf states.

We were pleased to see the current regime release all political prisoners, though it must be stressed that the majority

should never have been jailed in the first place. We were also pleased to see Sudan refuse to accept the humiliation of the IMF, and stand up for principle during the Gulf war rather than sell it for a handful of petrodollars.

But this can not substitute the desperate need for democracy and pluralism, not just in Sudan, but in Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Algeria and everywhere else in the Arab World.

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## Edberg beaten by Courier

PARIS (R) — Top seed Stefan Edberg of Sweden was knocked out of the French Open tennis championships Wednesday, beaten in four sets by ninth seed Jim Courier of the United States.

Courier, who had never before reached a Grand Slam quarterfinal, beat the world number one 6-4, 2-6, 6-3, 6-4 to move on to Friday's semifinal with 12th seed Michael Stich of Germany.

Courier had beaten Edberg once before, at Basel in 1989, before the Swede was no. 1, but had lost their last three encounters.

"I pretty much played my normal game," Courier said. "It's the first time I've beaten the no. 1 player in the world ... I'm a little bit happy."

Courier benefited from numer-

ous errors by Edberg, including two in the final game. The American also was lucky — his decisive service break in the seventh game of the last set came when he seemed to mis-hit the ball and it looped over Edberg's head as the Swede charged the net.

The last time the United States had two semifinalists was in 1984, when John McEnroe beat Jimmy Connors before losing the final to Ivan Lendl.

Stich's advance gave Germany two French Open semifinalists for the first time in the tournament's history.

Stich, an occasional practice partner of Becker but not a close friend, said he would prefer to meet Becker rather than Agassi if he makes the final.

"His game is a bit easier for me

to play than Agassi," Stich said. "An all-German final would be great for German tennis."

Stich said he, like all other German players, can't help but feel they are in Becker's shadow.

"He's just better than all the other players," Stich said.

The women's semifinals, scheduled for Thursday, involve perhaps the four best clay-court players in the world, and all four are eager for the showdowns after many tedious easy matches in the early rounds.

"When I get to the semis, it's a relief," said Monica Seles, the top seed and defending champion. "I know from here on in I have to play great tennis."

First in line for Seles is one of the two women vying to usurp her no. 1 ranking, third-seeded Gab-

riela Sabatini. Each has lost only one set in the first five rounds.

Steffi Graf, also in the hunt for the no. 1 spot, plays Arantxa Sanchez Vicario in Thursday's other semifinal. It's a battle of two former French Open champions, neither of whom has lost a set thus far.

The only semifinalist who hasn't won the tournament before is Sabatini, owner of the best won-lost record on the tour this year.

"I have a very tough match," Seles said. "If I win, I have another tough match."

One of the men's semifinals was set Tuesday, when Boris Becker and Andre Agassi demolished their quarterfinal foes.

Agassi routed Jakob Hlasek in 75 minutes, 6-3, 6-1, 6-1, while



Stefan Edberg

Becker said he played "almost perfect" tennis against Michael Chang, winning 6-4, 6-4, 6-2.

Agassi and Becker have split their six head-to-head matches, with Agassi winning the last three.

Sabatini had the toughest prelude to the semifinals. Twice a point from defeat against Jana Novotna, she battled to a 5-7, 7-6 (12-10), 6-0 victory, winning 10 of the last 11 games in what she described as one of her greatest comebacks.

Sabatini trailed 5-2 in the second set before rallying, and she twice saved match points in the tie-breaker. That seemed to demoralize Novotna, the sixth seed, who succumbed meekly in the final set.

"I gave everything in the first two sets," Novotna said. "I felt there was not much left mentally to fight for."

Sabatini, like the other semifinalists, said she was looking forward to the upcoming show-downs.

"Now, it will be the big matches," said the Argentine, whose record this year is 40-3.

Seles won 6-0, 7-5 over seventh-seeded Conchita Martinez of Spain, who dropped the first set in 23 minutes but battled gallantly in an hour-long second set.

Graf improved her career record against France's Nathalie Tauziat to 14-0 with a 6-3, 6-2 victory. Sanchez Vicario, seeded fifth, overpowered no. 4 seed Mary Joe Fernandez, also 6-3, 6-2.

Sanchez Vicario, who as a 17-year-old beat Graf in the title match here two years ago, said she felt no qualms about a rematch.

"I have nothing to lose," she said. "I'll go out and play my game."

Graf also was asked about the 1989 final.

"People will always remember it," she said. "But I'll try to make the memory change and do better this time."

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY JUNE 6, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** A vitally important day and evening to go along with what others expect of you or you can friends or support. Avoid a confrontation with a contentious in the PM.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) Much contemplation and thought can bring answers that are most satisfactory to you and which you would like to live under for the coming days.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) Your present circle of friends seem to have gotten into a rut with you but you are able to change that now so there is a new electricity present.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21)

Your worldly position in some respects need to be reconsidered and thought out along lines that give you more success in public and in other way.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) There are a considerable number of new ideas that now occur to you but you need to be prepared to make some drastic changes if you accept them.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Now you are able to get at the tasks at hand and get rid of them by doing them yourself and not expecting associates to lift a finger by your ideas.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 21) Study what you can do that brings you the greatest amount of pleasure at the least cost and join friends and mate in recreations you all like.

**LIBRA:** (September 22 to October 21) Listen to what your own family has to say about how you can have more success in the world.

**of outside activity and follow their advice.**

**SCORPIO:** (October 22 to November 21) Think about that course that can bring you more rewards of a pleasant nature and take some of the burden from you for a little while so you can relax.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Do those things now that can eliminate the tensions and the strain you have been under with some near members of your family will enjoy.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) There are a number of discussions to be held with allies that can so improve your usual routines that the future can be much brighter for you.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) Now you have your mind rightly set on finances, whether it be in daily expenses and budgeting, to take a trip or regarding your property.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Take some time out to look at your personal appearance and see what you can do to make it more attractive and pleasing to the eye of those around.

**TODAY'S CHILD:** If your child were born today she or he understands what is in the mind of others and to help them considerably to replace their anxieties with a new approach that can take away worry and apprehension. Avoiding all kinds of adversities applies to their life too which creates a special peace and harmony.

"The stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you.

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY JUNE 5, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) Friends can do some very surprising things that leave you wondering unless you realize planetary forces are at work testing all those involved.

**T A T U R U S:** (April 20 to May 20)

You find that you need to be more careful where any rules or laws are concerned now and need to make certain you do vocational activities well.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Watch out on the highway, drive slowly and carefully and say or do nothing that could惹 any usual ally with whom you want to keep on friendly terms.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) You are eager to make some changes in methods so that you are very much tempted to do so but study your new interests carefully.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) You have all kinds of responsibilities now that should be carried through so lose no time but make a special point to carry through.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Now you are able to see the various associates you want to put a new plan in effect with but don't buck them now if they do not agree completely.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Whatever requires that you quietly operate behind the scenes in any situation is very good now so study and prepare for new success.

**TODAY'S CHILD:** If your child were born today he or she gets ahead in life by meticulous approaches that may seem to be taking too long to the average observer who will want to rush them. Make sure that this doesn't occur and to teach this progeny all about the "birds and bees" for they will most likely know to know at an early age.

who plays the paper is not just clear, who spell out your desires.

**SCORPIO:** (October 22 to November 21) Now you have all kinds of ambitions to bring to light the best that exists in your home-life but you need first consult with family members.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Watch out on the highway, drive slowly and carefully and say or do nothing that could惹 any usual ally with whom you want to keep on friendly terms.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) You are eager to make some changes in methods so that you are very much tempted to do so but study your new interests carefully.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) You have all kinds of responsibilities now that should be carried through so lose no time but make a special point to carry through.

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## SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

### Kankkunen wins Acropolis Rally

LAGONISSI, Greece (R) — Finn Juha Kankkunen, driving a Lancia, won the 1,776-km Acropolis Rally Wednesday, the fifth round of the world championship. Kankkunen finished 58 seconds ahead of Spanish world champion Carlos Sainz in a Toyota. Italy's Massimo Biasion, also in a Lancia, was third.

### Generous wins Epsom Derby

EPSOM, England (R) — Alan Munro, widely tipped as a future champion jockey, won his first Epsom Derby horse racing classic Wednesday with 9-1 chance Generous. Munro, 24, and riding in only his second derby, sent Generous clear with 400 metres to race and was not troubled to hold off 14-1 Shot Marju, the Mount of Willies Carson, by five lengths. Irish raider star of Gdansk, ridden by Christy Roche, also at 14-1, made late headway to snatch third place. Munro, who rode a 20-1 winner in the race prior to the Derby, has just returned from four days suspension. The victory was a brilliant start to his new association as retained jockey to Saudi Arabian Prince Fahd Salman.

### Colombian suspension to be lifted

ASUNCIÓN (R) — Colombia's home match ban will be lifted November 30, the South American Football Confederation (CSF) said Tuesday. The CSF suspended Colombia from hosting internationals last September after gunmen threatened match officials before a Libertadores Cup game between Atlético Nacional of Medellin and Brazil's Vasco Da Gama a month earlier. A CSF official said it was believed Colombian soccer had overcome the violent circumstances which led to the incident.

### Hearns doesn't plan retirement

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Just when he was supposed to be planning his retirement, Thomas Hearns finds himself planning his boxing future. A day after upsetting previously undefeated Virgil Hill to win his sixth world title, Hearns mulled his options as the World Boxing Association (WBA) light heavyweight champion. "I'm definitely revived with this fight," Hearns said Tuesday. "It opened up a lot of people's eyes in the boxing world. People thought Thomas Hearns was tired and finished in boxing. That's not the case at all." Hearns, supposedly washed up at the age of 32, won a portion of the 175-pound (79.5-kilogramme) title for a second time, taking a unanimous decision over an opponent five years his junior while handing Hill his first loss in 31 fights.

### Lendl wins first match

BECKENHAM, England (AP) — Top-seeded Ivan Lendl, returning to action after a hand injury, downed Britain's Jonathan Haycock 6-2, 6-4 Tuesday in the Beckenham grass court tennis tournament. Lendl, who withdrew from the French Open because of the injury, showed no signs of discomfort during the 64-minute second-round match. Meanwhile, Pat Cash, the 26-year-old Australian is also competing in the grass court tournament as a warm-up to Wimbledon. He defeated Jake Martyn of Britain 6-3, 6-1.

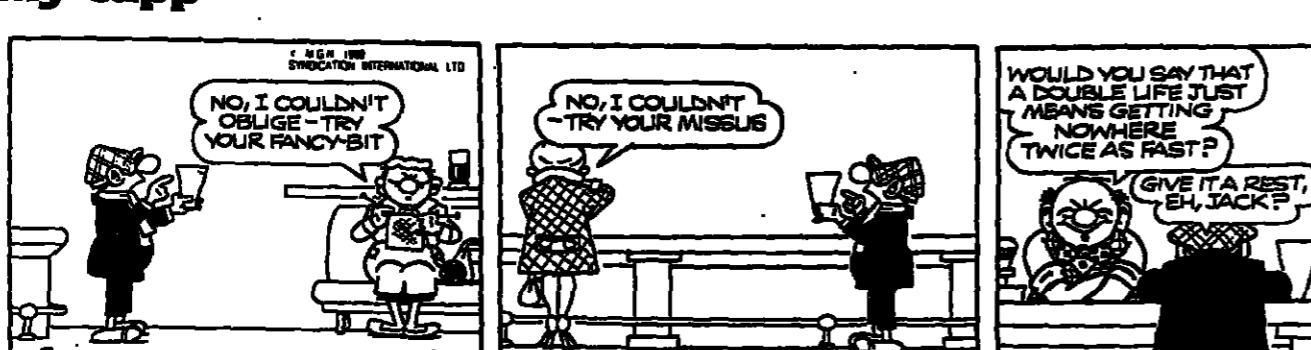
### Walker wins 8th stage in Milk race

SWANSEA, Wales (AP) — Overall leader Chris Walker snatched victory in the eighth stage of the round-Britain Milk Race

### Peanuts



### Andy Capp



### Mutt 'n' Jeff



الآن من الأصل

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY JUNE 7, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** A vitally important day and evening to go along with what others expect of you or you can friends or support. Avoid a confrontation with a contentious in the PM.

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**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21)

Your worldly position in some respects need to be reconsidered and thought out along lines that give you more success in public and in other way.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) There are a considerable number of new ideas that now occur to you but you need to be prepared to make some drastic changes if you accept them.

Financial Jordan Times  
Markets in co-operation with  
Cairo Amman Bank



U.S. Dollar in International Markets		New York Close	Tokyo Close
Currency		1.6995	1.6965
Sterling Pound		1.7450	1.7465
Deutsche Mark		1.4916	1.4935
Swiss Franc		5.9100	5.8590**
French Franc		138.85	139.17
Japanese Yen		1.1745	1.1735**
European Currency Unit			
USD Per STG			
European Option = New York, 1 p.m. GMT			

\*\*Midday bid rates for amounts exceeding £5 million 1,000,000 or equivalent

Eurocurrency Interest Rates Date: 5/6/1991					
Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS	
U.S. Dollar	6.00	6.05	6.05	6.05	
Sterling Pound	11.43	11.12	11.00	10.57	
Deutsche Mark	8.90	9.00	9.05	9.12	
Swiss Franc	8.00	8.00	8.00	7.81	
French Franc	9.50	9.45	9.45	9.37	
Japanese Yen	7.51	7.65	7.53	7.31	
European Currency Unit	10.00	10.00	10.00	9.87	
Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding £5 million 1,000,000 or equivalent					

Precious Metals Date: 5/6/1991					
Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm*	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	362	6.70	Silver	4.17	.096

\*1 Kilot

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 5/6/1991					
Currency	Bid	Offer			
U.S. Dollar	.683	.685			
Sterling Pound	1.1602	1.1660			
Deutsche Mark	.3913	.3933			
Swiss Franc	.4581	.4604			
French Franc	.1156	.1162			
Japanese Yen	.4908	.4933			
Dutch Guilder	.3474	.3491			
Swedish Krona	.1092	.1097			
Italian Lira	.0529	.0532			
Belgian Franc	.01906	.01916			

\*Per 100

Other Currencies Date: 5/6/1991					
Currency	Bid	Offer			
Bahraini Dinar	1.7850	1.8100			
Lebanese Lira	.0740	.0760			
Saudi Riyal	.1817	.1825			
Kuwaiti Dinar	—	—			
Qatari Riyal	.1845	.1850			
Egyptian Pound	.1900	.2050			
Omani Riyal	1.7450	1.7650			
UAE Dirham	.1845	.1850			
Greek Drachma	.3450	.3650			
Cypriot Pound	1.4150	1.4250			

\*Per 100

CAB Indices for Amman Financial Market					
Index	3/6/1991	Close	4/6/1991	Close	
All-Share	113.15	112.69			
Banking Sector	110.30	109.69			
Insurance Sector	113.06	112.94			
Industry Sector	115.49	115.18			
Services Sector	128.56	128.50			

December 31, 1990 = 100

## Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia become OECD partners

PARIS (R) — Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Poland joined the fast track to full membership of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Tuesday.

Ministers from the three former communist countries signed an agreement making them "partners in transition" of the OECD, one of the developed world's main economic think-tanks.

The ministers denied at a news conference that the OECD was pushing them too fast towards capitalism, with the risk of heightened social protest.

Czechoslovak Foreign Minister Jiri Dienstbier said: "We had a tough regime until November 1989 ... for our population, it is accepted political that we need to make the reforms as quickly as possible."

Mr. Dienstbier said the three countries will work out individually tailored programmes aimed at speeding the transition of each to a market economy. The OECD commits itself to country reviews of the type it carries out every year or so for its 24 full members, and will provide technical assistance to back the reforms it recommends.

He said OECD countries could help by opening up their markets

to goods such as textiles, steel and agricultural produce.

Polish Finance Minister Leszek Balcerowicz, referring to unfair trade practices that dominated discussion at Tuesday's OECD ministerial meeting, told the news conference:

"It may be absolutely crucial for the reforms that we gain access to Western countries. I wish that the West would not give us such a bad example in some sectors."

Mr. Dienstbier said the West could also help by channelling the aid it would eventually provide to the Soviet Union towards the purchase of goods from the eastern European countries.

"The Soviet Union has lots of money but no capacities, we have plenty of capacity but no money," he said.

The OECD and the three countries will work out individually tailored programmes aimed at speeding the transition of each to a market economy.

The OECD commits itself to country reviews of the type it carries out every year or so for its 24 full members, and will provide technical assistance to back the reforms it recommends.

## India swaps 20 tonnes of gold to raise cash

NEW DELHI (R) — India, in desperate need of foreign exchange, has swapped 20 tonnes of gold in Zurich for \$240 million, bankers and diplomats said Tuesday.

The transactions took place in the last week of May and are described as a "gold swap" by diplomats and banking sources in Bombay who were involved in the transactions.

India is putting up the gold as loan collateral and has the option of buying it back later at world market prices plus interest on the money said a banker who did not want to be named.

Trade sources in Bombay said India was preparing to swap at least another 10 tonnes of gold abroad.

Officials in the caretaker government of Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar declined to comment on the reports.

India, whose credit rating has plummeted because of dwindling foreign exchange reserves, spiralling foreign debt, and political uncertainties — especially after Rajiv Gandhi's assassination — has found it all but impossible to borrow money abroad lately.

Foreign exchange reserves in mid-May were 26.2 billion rupees (\$1.3 billion) against 32.4 billion rupees a year ago.

India's foreign debt as of March 1990 was \$70 billion. But about \$4 billion of that is fast-revolving, short-term debt on which India is scrambling to avoid default.

The U.S.-based rating company said the change — which takes India's credit rating from "investment grade" to "speculative grade" — reflects the heightened risk that the government will not be able to quickly take steps to overcome external liquidity and payments problems.

Swiss Bank Corp. economist Hans Kaufmann said:

"The central bank said late last year it would aim to ease monetary policy gradually but its priority was to fight inflation."

"The second quarter GDP will show no improvement from the first. The question is no longer when are we going to enter a recession, but how long will it last?" Bank Julius Baer's Kaufmann said.

"We are going through a classic

recession and I'm not convinced

we've seen the worst," Bank Julius Baer economist Hans Kaufmann said.

Analysts who expected the

Swiss economy to recover in

the second half of 1991 as a downturn in inflation led to lower interest rates now say those forecasts may have been optimistic.

Swiss National Bank (SNB) President Markus Lusser said in April the economy would remain weak in coming months, but there could be no major relaxa-

## OPEC aims to nudge oil prices higher by keeping output steady

VIENNA (R) — OPEC decided to freeze its output ceiling at current levels for the next three months, expecting rising demand to nudge oil prices gradually higher towards its target of \$21 a barrel.

Stymied by Saudi Arabia's refusal to endorse production cuts that could quickly propel prices higher, OPEC chose a patient approach to achieving its elusive goal.

"Some are not too happy with the outcome but will go along," Secretary-General Subroto of Indonesia told reporters.

Three of the group's 13 members wanted to cut production in the third quarter, Dr. Subroto said, but eventually agreed with the majority's wish to extend the current ceiling of 22.3 million barrels per day (b/d).

Mr. Subroto did not name the reluctant ones.

Slashing production would have jolted the market, he said, but keeping output unchanged would nurture demand.

"We have always felt that we will support \$21 but we never said that we will force that on the market by a deliberate creation of shortage," Sheikh Nazer told reporters.

Saudi Arabia emerged from the chaos of the Gulf war as OPEC's powerhouse. It now pumps around eight million barrels per day, more than a third of OPEC's total output.

Luring business back to the market after last year's oil-spawned price shock remains a key objective for OPEC if prices are to recover.

The average price for a basket of seven OPEC crudes is now more than \$3 below the level OPEC desires.

"We foresee a small increase in the price" as the market responds to the renewed 22.3 million b/d cap, Dr. Subroto said after the group's first one-day conference in more than a decade.

Iranian Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh told reporters he



Subroto

Saudi Oil Minister Hisham Nazer often cites the same argument.

He said as the conference began that the kingdom supported OPEC's \$21 target price.

Slashing production would have jolted the market, he said, but keeping output unchanged would nurture demand.

Farmers in OECD countries receive much of their income either through government payments that prop up commodity prices or prices that are kept artificially high through import barriers or other schemes. But the report did

## Lithuania criticises Soviet report on attack

LONDON (R) — Lithuania has criticised as disinformation a report by Moscow vindicating use of Soviet troops in a bloody suppression of pro-independence demonstrators in Lithuania's capital Vilnius in January.

The Lithuanian prosecutor-general, in a statement Tuesday night, said more than 1,000 witnesses had confirmed that, in storming Vilnius's television centre, Soviet troops used automatic weapons and tank fire, killing 13 citizens.

"The military units arrived at the television buildings, in accordance with a previously laid-out and meticulously worked-out plan, which was aimed at overthrowing the legal parliament and the government of Lithuania," said the statement, read on Lithuania Radio, which was monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC).

It referred to a report by Moscow's prosecutor-general on Monday that exonerated the Soviet troops from blame. "The report by prosecutor (Nikolay) Trubin is viewed as an attempt to disinform the USSR parliament and the world public," it said.

The attack on the television centre in the Baltic Republic, which is seeking independence, was widely condemned by Western governments.

Meanwhile Lithuania's vice-president has said the West should not aid the Soviet Union unless Moscow promised to respect the desire of the Baltic states to become independent.

Vice-President Ceslavas Stankevicius, in Poland to attend Pope John Paul's special meeting with Lithuanian religious and political leaders Wednesday, told reporters Tuesday.

"The time has come for concrete decisions. One of these decisions is to give or not to give the money and at the same time to help or not to help the Baltic states..."

Asked if the West should set conditions for Soviet requests for aid, he said:

"If in giving money to the Soviet Union the West does not make clear its position on the situation in the Baltic states, (the money) will be used against the Baltic states by force."

Lithuanian Deputy Prime Minister Zigmas Vaisviliaus added: "We want concrete guarantees from the Soviet side protecting the Baltic states."

Moscow has asked for an invitation to the July meeting in London of the Group of Seven (G-7) leading industrialised democracies.

If allowed to attend, President Mikhail Gorbachev is expected to ask for aid to help revive the Soviet Union's crippled economy.

The G-7 countries have not yet agreed on a formal invitation to Gorbachev although several of the group's leaders have said they expect he will be invited.

Stankevicius is leading a delegation to Poland to attend papal services in Lomza, about 130 kilometres from the Soviet border.

President Vytautas Landsbergis cancelled his trip to Poland to see the Pope because of tensions at home. He was to have had lunch with the Pope Tuesday and attend the special meeting for Lithuanians.

In Washington, the United States on Tuesday criticised a Soviet show of force in the Lithuanian capital of Vilnius, saying it would raise tensions in the breakaway Baltic republic.

"We do not understand how this latest display of force can be consistent with the expressed intentions of Moscow to avoid violence," said State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler.

"We continue to urge that all outstanding issues between Lithuania and Moscow be settled by good faith negotiations, that measures be taken to prevent incidents of this kind in order to lower tensions and actively pursue peaceful negotiations," she said.

Tutwiler also criticised the Soviet report, saying the State Department "found the conclusions... to be at odds with facts as has widely been reported."

The United States never recognised the Soviet incorporation of Lithuania and the two other Baltic republics of Latvia and Estonia in 1940 under the terms of a secret pact with Nazi Germany.

In a separate development, former Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze Tuesday condemned armed intervention in the Baltic republics and warned that renegade commanders could launch future attacks.

"I am against all use of force and believe using force is not necessary in the Baltic states," Shevardnadze told a news conference in Paris.

"(Soviet President Mikhail) Gorbachev said he was not involved when such interventions took place in the past in Lithuania and Estonia," said Shevardnadze, who was launching the French-language version of his autobiography.

"It is good that Gorbachev did not participate in those actions, but it is also very dangerous if he was not aware they were taking place because garrison commanders elsewhere could also decide on their own to take such decisions," he said.

"The (army officers) could decide on repressive measures... and this alarms Soviet citizens," said Shevardnadze, who resigned last year, saying there were threats of a return to dictatorship in his country.

Shevardnadze said the Soviet Union was "on the verge of chaos, even of anarchy," and called on rival politicians to unite to bring peace to the country.

Shevardnadze also said he was willing to mediate between the rival Soviet republics of Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Georgian president to meet Bush

Newly elected Georgian Presi-



## NATO, hoping to chart new course, struggles with France

COPENHAGEN (R) — NATO foreign ministers, hoping to chart a new political course for the alliance at a meeting in Copenhagen starting Thursday, must first overcome differences with France on plans for the post-cold war era.

Ministers from the 16-nation Western alliance, meeting for two days of talks, are likely to agree on extending political and military contacts with their former Warsaw Pact enemies, giving in NATO a wider political role in building a new Europe.

They will also discuss the tricky question of how to create a stronger European defence identity without alienating the United States, NATO's senior member, as Washington prepares to withdraw many of its 320,000-strong forces from Europe.

But France, which left the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation's (NATO) military structure in 1966 and resents U.S. leadership, wants to see NATO's role limited and has been fiercely critical of its new plans.

"France is isolated... there is a conflict," Danish Foreign Minister Uffe Ellermann-Jensen, the meeting's host, told reporters Tuesday.

"We all want to see France brought closer into NATO cooperation, but if the price for that is the weakening of our ties with the United States, we will not pay it," he said.

"NATO must be the foundation for collective security in the Europe of the future."

NATO officials say the Copenhagen meeting will be a vital "building block" for an alliance summit later this year.

The foreign ministers will fix a

date for the summit, which will give official blessing to a blueprint for NATO's future. It is expected to be held in Rome in late October or November.

But officials are hoping there will be no repeat of the previous foreign ministers' meeting last December, when France threatened to walk out during a discussion on whether the alliance should have more contacts with Eastern Europe.

Paris says it would prefer to see those contacts run on a bilateral level or by the 34-nation Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE). It says NATO should be satisfied with defending the West against Soviet military power.

But many European allies share the United States' view that the trans-Atlantic link at the heart of NATO must not be undermined and the alliance should remain the chief forum for decisions on Western security.

NATO defence ministers agreed last week to reshape the alliance's forces and set up a "rapid reaction" force to face new threats to their territory in Europe.

France, which did not attend that meeting, was upset.

Foreign minister Roland Dumas said Tuesday that NATO had put the cart before the horse by agreeing to reshape its forces without first defining future policy and strategy.

He said it was not France's intention that a purely European defence should undermine NATO, but added that the new "rapid reaction" force would cost the alliance "a lot of money, a lot of time, a lot of problems."

"Logic would demand to first define political objectives, then a strategy, and then restructure forces. In this case, it seems the opposite process has been chosen," he said.

## Pope expresses support for Lithuanian independence

LOMZA, Poland (R) — Pope John Paul held an emotional meeting with Lithuanian Catholics Wednesday and expressed cautious support for self-determination for the Soviet Baltic republic.

The Pontiff said his historic visit to the Soviet Union was drawing closer.

"Lithuania, I hear your voice," the Pope said at a prayer service with Lithuanian Catholics in Lomza, about 130 kilometres from the Soviet border.

"I believe my Lomza meeting with Lithuanians will bring closer the day when Lithuania will be on my papal pilgrimage trail," he said.

Pope John Paul was in Lomza on the fifth day of a visit to his homeland that has brought him closer than ever before to the Soviet Union.

Several thousand Lithuanians, some-dressed in traditional costume, repeatedly interrupted him in the town's Gothic cathedral as he read parts of his address in Lithuanian.

Cardinal Vincentas Sladkevicius, Archbishop of Vilnius, emotionally invited the Pope to visit his country.

With tears in his eyes, the 60-year-old cardinal said: "We are inviting you and we are waiting for you to visit us."

Sladkevicius, the Soviet Union's only Roman Catholic cardinal, said he hoped the Pope would come next year.

Lithuanian Vice-President Ceslavas Stankevicius and two ministers of the breakaway republic met the Pope privately beforehand to discuss their country's situation.

"In his talks with us the holy father underscored the fact that all countries have the right to self-determination, especially those who have lost their independence," Stankevicius told reporters.

He said the Pope had not given any specific guidance on how predominantly Catholic Lithuania should proceed in its independence bid.

But the vice-president said he had "fully satisfied" with his talks with the Pope.

Businessmen and church leaders including Anglican

Archbishop Desmond Tutu launched a fresh initiative Tuesday to end the township wars waged almost daily with guns, sticks, spears and petrol bombs.

The fighting pits mainly members of Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC) against followers of Zulu chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi's Inkatha Freedom Party, the ANC's main rival for support among blacks, who form the country's majority but have no vote.

Seven clergymen and four business leaders said in a statement they had formed a committee to bring leaders of all warring parties together to thrash out a peace settlement.

In a generally optimistic assess-

## De Klerk still optimistic about peace

CAPE TOWN (R) — President F.W. De Klerk, warning against mounting political violence in South Africa, has said a new, non-racial constitution could still be negotiated in time to forestall a whites-only election in 1994.

He told Reuters in an interview Tuesday that South Africa's leaders must cooperate to end violence that has killed 300 people in five weeks and 5,000 since 1987.

"If we don't succeed... through peaceful means and through negotiation to bring the violence to an end... then the violence of the moment is but a forerunner of something much more terrible which will follow," he said.

Businessmen and church leaders including Anglican

ment of progress since he legalised the ANC 16 months ago and freed Mandela from a life sentence for fighting apartheid. De Klerk said exclusive white rule could end in time to avoid white elections in 1994.

"The violence is a matter of grave concern. But... apart from that very important negative aspect, things are going quite well in South Africa," he said in his first interview with a foreign news agency since he became president in September 1989.

"There is more hope in the hearts of the overwhelming majority of South Africans than there was two or three years ago because things are happening," he added.

## IRA bombs will not disrupt peace talks'

BELFAST (R) — Britain's Northern Ireland Minister Peter Brooke said bombing attacks by the IRA that is fighting to oust Britain from Northern Ireland in one of the world's longest-running guerrilla conflicts, has not disrupted talks on the future of the battle-scarred province.

Brooke made the pledge Monday night after Northern Ireland saw a weekend surge of violence. The IRA killed three soldiers with a bomb last Friday and the British army retaliated Monday by killing three IRA guerrillas.

Fiery Protestant preacher-politician Ian Paisley pledged to keep the talks going "even if one of my party is murdered."

In a major blow to the IRA's guerrilla network, British commandos shot dead three IRA gunmen in an ambush Monday in the County Tyrone village of Coalagh.

The victims included Peter Ryan, 47, described by one senior police officer as "a big, big fish" who escaped from a Belfast prison in 1981 and was wanted for questioning over a string of murders of off-duty police and soldiers.

Police believe the three, killed

in a fusillade of 200 shots that raked their stolen car, were about to attack a group of Protestant labourers on their way to work.

The IRA said the three were "on active service." It said that the British shootings were in retaliation for the weekend IRA truck bomb attack of an Ulster Defence Regiment base that killed three soldiers and injured 14 people.

The guerrilla group apologised for blowing up a senior civil servant with a booby-trap under her car, saying it had picked the wrong victim. A member of the security forces living nearby was believed to be the intended target.

Bob Gourley, whose wife Celie had both legs blown off in the blast, said: "I am no Christian. I don't forgive them. To those who apologise I would say come and see a woman fighting for her life. They are hypocrites."

## U.N. chief urges world climate treaty for 1992

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — On World Environment Day, Secretary-General Javier Perez De Cuellar urged the adoption of a worldwide treaty on climatic change to control the greenhouse effect and avoid disastrous effects from global warming.

June 5 was celebrated as World Environment Day since 1972, when it was the opening day of a 112-nation Stockholm conference on human damage to the environment that threatens the survival of humanity.

In a message prepared for Wednesday's anniversary, Perez De Cuellar said "the effects of a global warming that would destroy the balance of nature would be truly disastrous."

However, union sources said the general strike to press for better working and social conditions would continue until the new government was announced and began talks with the independent federation of trade union, which called it.

Diplomatic sources contacted in Tirana said the decision by the Party of Labour to accept a caretaker government appeared to be a victory for moderates inside the party.

The PLA won two thirds of the 250 parliamentary seats in the elections two months ago.

Bangladesh, might become more frequent and more severe," Perez De Cuellar said.

"Despite uncertainty as to the rate of global warming, decisive precautionary measures are urgently needed," he said.

Perez De Cuellar urged the nations of the world to adopt an international convention on climate change in 1992 when they meet in Brazil for the U.N. conference on environment and development.

"This first step toward an international climate regime should contain specific commitments for stabilising and reducing greenhouse gas emissions, increasing energy efficiency, and conserving forests," he said.

The United States, which produces more atmosphere-warming carbon dioxide than any other nation, has opposed setting specific target goals for limiting CO<sub>2</sub> gas.

China, which relies on coal to fuel its development, is also wary of limits on CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

An evening ceremony in the General Assembly hall, the first annual Earth prize will be

awarded Wednesday to Ted Turner of Turner Broadcasting Co.; UNICEF Executive Director James Grant; Mexico's President Carlos Salinas De Gortari; and Norwegian Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland.

Turner and Grant will be present to receive the award from the U.N. Environment Programme (UNEP); Mrs. Brundtland and Salinas will receive their prizes later.

UNEP will also announce a new round of winners of its Global 500 Award Programme, which was inaugurated in 1984 to recognise pioneers in environmental planning and conservation.

Forty-nine individuals from 29 nations will be honoured this year. Among them are:

—Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands, who founded the World Wildlife Fund in 1961;

—Jim Brandenburg of Minnesota, formerly a National Geographic Magazine photographer, now director of Wolf Ridge, America's premier environmental learning centre;

—Lynton Keith Caldwell of Bloomington, Indiana, a doctor

who has worked with numerous international and U.N. environmental agencies over the years and drafted the U.S. National Environmental Policy Act;

—Robert Glew Ketchum, an artist, author, photographer and teacher. He was curator of photography for the National Park Foundation from 1980-1989, and wrote the Tongass: Alaska's Mobilized Rainforest, which

claimed their \$11.2 million jackpot from the May 18 drawing.

Lottery officials said Monday, Majors said he bought the ticket, a convenience store in St. Cloud, Florida, near Orlando. He originally bought eight tickets but the clerk accidentally printed three more and he agreed to buy them.

One of the three extra tickets out to have the winning number.

Their winning ticket, a random computer selection, will pay the Majors \$710,000 annually for 20 years.

The family did not claim the prize until they set up a trust to put their affairs in order, said co-trustee Douglas C. Kaplan.

"They've tried to avoid making grandiose plans," said Kaplan. "Obviously they're going to upgrade their lifestyle a bit without really bending it out of shape."

## Column